

REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE TO THE REGULAR December 2011 SENATE

FOR INFORMATION

Recommendations and Commendations of ACAPLAN following the Undergraduate Program Review: NATIVE STUDIES

The Native Studies department completed their self-study on February 9, 2010 and on March 13, 2011 a report from the Review Committee was completed. The Review Committee included two faculty members (Lucien Pelletier, University of Sudbury & Patrick Julig, Laurentian University), two students (Velma Pheasant-Neganigwane & Melanie Smits), and Dr. David Newhouse, a Professor in the Department of Indigenous Studies at Trent University.

Overall:

The Department of Native Studies has been in existence for just over 30 years. The Review Committee acknowledged the department's contribution to the emerging academic field of Indigenous Studies noting that the department "has been a leader in the development" of field and the model for Native Studies at the University of Sudbury has been "emulated in many other places". The committee also acknowledged that the department addressed the issues raised in its last review of 2000. Given the progress the Review Committee asserted that the department is well situated to move ahead in its evolution.

After review of the self-study, the report from the Review Committee, and the response from the department of Native Studies ACAPLAN puts forth the following commendations and recommendations for consideration:

Student Issues

1. Commendations
 - a. Students are engaged with the department, indicate a high level of commitment, are generally satisfied with their studies, and are both energized and challenged by their studies.

Faculty Issues

1. Commendations
 - a. The academic qualifications of the faculty have increased significantly since the last review. Of the six faculty members, five now have PhD's.
 - b. Faculty publications have increased.
 - c. Faculty members are described as fully engaged and demonstrate a high degree of commitment to the university, program, and students.
2. Recommendations
 - a. The President of the University of Sudbury should consider providing ongoing support to assist faculty efforts to increase their scholarly publications through for example workload reductions.

Program Issues

1. Commendations
 - a. The program is to be commended for taking the time to undertake strategic planning to address some of the issues related to declining enrolments, state of curriculum, and ensuring the long term growth of the department.
 - b. The program is commended for introducing five new courses to meet the changing needs of students.
2. Recommendations
 - a. Given the issue of declining enrolments (2008-09 there was an increase but this increase was primarily in the 4 year BA and not the 3 year BA) the program may want to consider developing a series of minors that would be available across campus and/or cycling courses so that there are new electives offered each year.
 - b. In addition the department should consider other ways to increase enrolments beyond the above.
 - c. Change its name from Native Studies to Indigenous Studies