

REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE TO THE REGULAR May 2013 SENATE

FOR INFORMATION

Recommendations and Commendations of ACAPLAN in regards to the Masters of Human Kinetics program review.

The School of Human Kinetics completed the self-study of their Masters of Human Kinetics program in December 2011 and the external review took place April 30 and May 1, 2012. The School responded in June 2012 and the Dean of Professional Schools responded July 19, 2012. This review was the first review of the program since its inception. The following is a brief outline of the commendations and recommendations identified throughout the process.

The Department

Student Issues

1. Commendations

- a. As evidenced by the teaching evaluations, students are satisfied with the quality of the courses and the instruction received.

2. Recommendations

- a. Provide a base level of funding for students entering the program.
- b. More effort needs to be made into recruiting francophone students, so that the same experiences may be offered in both languages.
- c. Provide consistent and ongoing direction to students as to the expectations of them throughout the year, but particularly with regards to the “black hole” of the summer months.
- d. Provide an MHK/MAP-specific career exploration workshop.
- e. Externally Advertise/increase promotion of the Internship in Human Kinetics (PHED 5496) and the Directed Individual Study in Human Kinetics (PHED 5456).
- f. More effort should be made at identifying undergraduate students with the potential to be strong graduate students.
- g. More financial support needs to be provided for students; therefore, raising funds for bursaries and scholarships should be a priority.
- h. Streamline the application process for international students
- i. Strengthen a “cohort culture” throughout the graduate program.
- j. Provide more support to international students who do not receive the same level of funding and GTA opportunities afforded domestic students

Program Issues

1. Commendations

- a. The MHK/MAP program has established strong community partnerships and support.
- b. The School has established a clear Vision, Mission, and Values for the next three years.
- c. The alumni believe that the MHK/MAP experience is a great “stepping stone” to future PhD studies at other institutions.
- d. The School of Human Kinetics does an excellent job of fitting within the mandate of the University and reflecting the bilingual and tri-cultural nature of the institution.

- e. The Research Methods in Human Kinetics (PHED 5126) course helps with writing a research proposal and/or applying for research grants.
- f. Seminar in Human Kinetics 1 (PHED 5026) allows students to meet and become familiar with the concept of graduate studies.
- g. Internship in Human Kinetics (PHED 5496) and Directed Individual Study in Human Kinetics (PHED 5456) help students explore other areas of interest that can be related or unrelated to their thesis topic.
- h. Research Seminar Series (RSS) provides different perspectives and opportunities to learn about new research areas and provides an opportunity for students to work on their presentation skills.

2. Recommendations

- a. Offer a statistics workshop instead of integrating a statistics component into the coursework
- b. A policy should be developed that requires students to propose their thesis in October of their second year in the program.
- c. Seminar (PHED 5026 and PHED 5027) course components may include: preparation for ethics and grants, templates/formatting for presenting at conferences, and a section on professional development (after the MHK/MAP, options for graduates to pursue).
- d. Strengthen program collaboration and course offerings across campus.
- e. Provide more professional development workshops, whether within the current seminar sessions, or through extracurricular options.

Faculty and Staff Issues

1. Commendations

- a. There is a very collegial atmosphere currently amongst the faculty members in the MHK/MAP program.
- b. The diversity of the faculty members is a perceived strength of the program.
- c. The alumni of the program are appreciative of the level of support provided by the faculty and staff.

2. Recommendations

- a. While two new tenure-track faculty members were expected to be hired between the completion of the self-study and the start of the 2012-13 academic year, there is still a need to hire more tenure-track faculty members, with a specific need identified with an Exercise Physiology position in English.
- b. Recent decreases in the number of secretaries and lab technicians leaves a need for more staff members in these specific areas.
- c. A heavy teaching workload makes it difficult for graduate students to receive the same quality of supervision as afforded students in programs where faculty members are not expected to be teaching 5 half-courses each year. Some thought should be given to bringing the teaching workload down to the same level of similar programs in Ontario and Canada.

Research Issues

1. Commendations

- a. The Centre for Research in Occupational Safety and Health (CROSH) and Evaluating Children's Health Outcomes (ECHO) are research centres that have both received rave reviews from various stakeholders.
- b. There has been an increase in the number of research publications and presentations by both faculty and students.
- c. Regular research seminars provide a strong culture of research throughout the program.

2. Recommendations

- a. Increased support and direction needs to be provided to allow for stronger and more frequent grant and bursary applications.

The Dean

1. Recommendations

- a. Consider hiring at least one new tenure-track Exercise Physiologist in English.
- b. Consider hiring another secretary in order to maintain the same level of staff support available to the graduate program.
- c. Review options that could increase support for international students who currently are not eligible for teaching assistantships.
- d. Reconsider the viability of new PhD programs, as the School of Human Kinetics seems to offer a high quality of graduate supervision and adequately prepares students for PhD studies.
- e. Research laboratory space needs to be reallocated in closer proximity to the faculty members that use the space and who supervise the graduate students working regularly in this research space.
- f. Provide larger classroom space with the flexibility to offer different configurations that are useful and appropriate for the different types of teaching/learning.
- g. There is a need for increased wet lab space.
- h. The portables, which were built as an interim solution to the need for office space, should be replaced with permanent office space within the main building.
- i. The School of Human Kinetics meeting room needs to be equipped with technology that will enhance communications with thesis reviewers and research partners located a great distance from Sudbury and the Laurentian University campus.

The Library

1. Commendations

- a. The library currently meets the expectations of the Council of Ontario Universities' Guidelines for Library Cooperation

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