

18 Month Status Report (based on the Implementation and Work Plans)

External Program Review- Step # 11

Department/Program: Biology Responsibility: Department Chair

Date Submitted: January 16, 2016

Programs offered at Algoma University are reviewed cyclical basis as part of the IQAP process. It is a 14 step process beginning with the program self-study undertaken by the department and ends with the circulation and posting of this document on the Algoma University website. The 18 month status report is the **public record** of the department's response to the steps undertaken to implement the recommendations of the Final Assessment Report; it is step # 11 in the 14 step process. Once the report is complete, the department submits it to the Dean, who in turn submits to AppCom for review. AppCom then forwards the report to Senate for consideration, discussion and approval of recommendations. AppCom then forwards the status report through the office of the VPAR to the Board of Governors for information. **The office of the VPAR posts the report on AU website.**

Responses should be clear and concise. Please limit responses to the space provided.

For additional information on the IQAP process, visit <http://www.algomau.ca/media/IQAP.pdf>.

Recommendation # 1

Department member responsible for leading follow-up: Jennifer Foote

Completion by department? Yes No Ongoing

Recommendation (cut and paste from FAR)

- a. reduction from two-to-one 3000-level required ecology (Population and Community) courses whilst maintaining learning outcomes OR relegation to elective offerings;
- b. consider reducing the number of 3000- and 4000-level required courses to allow greater program flexibility, including college transfer options;
- c. course revisions to BIOL 1506 (Intro to Biology) and BIOL 2126 (Cell Biology) to enable more thorough coverage of cell and molecular biology. Add more microbiology to BIOL 2126;

Outstanding Items / Actions pertaining to Recommendation and Next Steps

- a. Completed – we created a single 3000 level ecology course BIOL 3396: Ecology and revised the program requirements to require this single course rather than the form BIOL3356 and BIOL3357.
- b. Completed. First, see a. we reduced the 2nd ecology requirement. Second, we replaced the requirement for STAT 2126 with a new course BIOL 2126: Experimental Design and Data Analysis. Doing so allowed us to remove the requirement for BIOL 2996 in the second year. Students now have more flexibility in the 3rd year. No changes were made to the 4th year as all courses are elective in that year.
- c. Completed. We have added more Cell Biology to 1506 and have changed the Cell Biology course to a new course BIOL 3007: Molecular Cell Biology. Genetics has been moved to the 2nd year (BIOL 2007

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Recommendation # 2

Department member responsible for leading follow-up: Jennifer Foote

Completion by department? Yes No Ongoing

Recommendation (cut and paste from FAR)

a. change required high school prerequisite from "any" U/M Sciences to Grade 12 Biology [SBI4U], though make exceptions for "other" evidence of course master (e.g., work experience, college diploma, BIOL 1506/1507 success);

b. do not alter other high school prerequisites (i.e., 4U mathematics required and 4U Chemistry recommended);

c. broaden the scope of high school prerequisites for admission from advanced functions only [MHF4U]

Outstanding Items / Actions pertaining to Recommendation and Next Steps

a. In progress. We are carefully considering this option; however, we want to be sure we can balance student success with recruitment. We will address entrance requirements in the coming year after a careful consideration and consultation with the registrar.

b. Completed. We did not alter the other pre-requisites; This recommendation is at odds (c), which suggest changes.

c. In progress. We are also considering this point; see a/b above.

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Recommendation # 3

Department member responsible for leading follow-up: Jennifer Foote

Completion by department? Yes No Ongoing

Recommendation (cut and paste from FAR)

That Academic Administration and the Department of Biology work together to advance partnerships with an eye towards increasing program appeal, growth and opportunities by

a. establishing stronger inter-program cooperation with LSSU's B.Sc. BIOL program;

b. establishing a sound and flexible diploma-to-degree articulation agreement with SCAAT's Environmental Technician/Technologist diploma program.

Outstanding Items / Actions pertaining to Recommendation and Next Steps

a. We are working to increase collaboration with our colleagues at LSSU. We have begun this process through some discussion with Dr. Jason Garvon at LSSU. Additionally, Jenn Foote has begun a collaboration to study piping plovers with Jason. Isabel Molina has recently contributed a letter of support for a grant by Dr. Thomas Mosey at LSSU for a NMR equipment grant to The National Science Foundation that would see joint use between our programs.

b. We are working on this currently with Flemming College. However, this program does not have a large amount of Biology content and is much more closely linked to the Environmental Science Program. However, we have created pathways from all programs with Biology content at Sault College (9 programs) and Cambrian College (9 programs). We will continue to work on college transfer pathways in the coming years.

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Department member responsible for leading follow-up: _____

Completion by department? Yes No Ongoing

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Outstanding Items / Actions pertaining to Recommendation and Next Steps

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Department member responsible for leading follow-up: _____

Completion by department? Yes No Ongoing

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Completion by department? Yes No Ongoing

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Completion by department? Yes No Ongoing

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