

Physics & Computer Science 2017 Implementation Report

Submitted By: Chinh Hoang, Chair, Department of Physics and Computer Science

Date: June 1, 2017

Recommendation: Student recruitment planning (<i>Reviewers' Recommendations #2 and parts of #9</i>).	
Responsibility: Department Chair, P&CS Vision Cmte, Associate Dean: Priorities and Planning	Implementation Date: March 17 2014 for formation of Recruitment Committee and articulation of plan for 2014 admissions. Ongoing execution of recruiting strategy.
Additional Notes: Liaison with the central Recruiting and Admissions office is essential.	
Recommendation completed (2016).	

Recommendation: Strategic Planning (<i>Reviewers' Recommendations #8, #10, #11 and parts of #9</i>).	
Responsibility: Department Chair, All P&CS faculty, Dean, Associate Dean: Priorities & Planning	Implementation Date: Presentation of a written Strategic Plan to Divisional Council in Fall 2014
<p>2014-2015 Actions</p> <p>Unit Response: We are in a process of introducing new computer courses: Data Mining and Enterprise Computing, Cloud Computing. These technologies are pervasive in the realm of IT and will continue to be important in the years to come. We are also in a process of establishing 2+2 Computer Science program with Jiangsu University.</p> <p>Decanal Response: A lot of planning was done in the past year as part of the curriculum review and the discontinuation of two programs. This was very positive, but not entirely "strategic". There would be value in articulating a more long-term plan for the department and putting it into a formal document that can be discussed at Divisional Council as originally planned. This should be done in the coming year.</p> <p>PRS Comments: Please provide an update on the progress made in creating a strategic plan for the department in next year's report.</p>	

2015-2016 Actions

Unit Comments: We are in the process of reorganizing HCCE (Honours Computing and Computer Electronics) program (with a possible elimination and replacement by a "hardware" option). New courses will be offered in Winter 2017 (Data Mining and Enterprise Computing, and Android Programming). Our Master in Applied Computing program has been approved by Senate.

Decanal Comments: The planning process is ongoing. The main focus for 2016/17 will be the development, in collaboration with the Mathematics Department, of a new BSc program in Data Science.

PRS Comments: Please provide an update on any initiatives related to this recommendation in next year's report.

Completed In Progress Other

2017 Unit Comments: We believe that we had many positive and strategic changes in the department since the last review in 2013 and that the spirit of this recommendation has been completed, recognizing that strategic planning is an ongoing process. In the past year, for example, we have eliminated the HCCE (Honours Computing and Computer Electronics) program. Together with Math, we are creating a BSc program in Data Science; this proposal was approved by the Senate and is being forwarded to the Assurance Quality Council for approval. Our Master of Applied Computing program will start in September 2017. Our proposal to teach the MAC part-time program online was approved by the Senate. We anticipate to start the online program in 2018 in partnership with Keypath. We will hire a teaching-only faculty for the coming year.

2017 Decanal Comments: Physics and Computer Science has worked exceedingly hard this year. The BSc in Data Science is currently at the Quality Council undergoing review, the Master of Applied Computing is off to a strong start, and the development of online courses will proceed this summer. Now that the Faculty of Science has a strategic plan, it would be a good time for the Department to revisit this idea. In addition, I would encourage the Department to create a five-year plan for how courses, programs, options, etc will be phased in.

2017 PRS Comments: The committee considered this recommendation to be completed.

Recommendation: Curriculum Review (<i>Reviewers' Recommendations #3, #4, #6</i>).	
Responsibility: Department Chair, P&CS faculty, FoS Curriculum Cmte	Implementation Date: Rewrite course syllabi for 2014/15 courses. Comprehensive review of all programs by Fall 2014
Additional Notes: Strategic Planning and Curriculum Review are closely linked and could be treated as a single exercise.	

Recommendation completed (2016).

Recommendation: CSAC Accreditation (Reviewers' Recommendation #13.)

Responsibility: Department Chair

Implementation Date: Fall 2014

2014-2015 Actions

Unit Response: The department intends to apply for CASC accreditation in the near future. We believe obtaining the accreditation will improve the reputation of the department.

Decanal Response: Just do it.

PRS Comments: Please provide an update on any progress made to pursuing CSAC accreditation in next year's report.

2015-2016 Actions

Unit Comments: Over last several months we had some discussions within Department. No action has been taken. We plan to apply for CASC accreditation in Fall 2016.

Decanal Comments: The delay was unfortunate. It should be done in the coming year.

PRS Comments: In next year's report, the committee would like an update on whether or not CASC accreditation was sought in fall 2016 as indicated above.

Completed In Progress Other

2017 Unit Comments: Since 2015, the department's priority has been to pursue growth in the areas of applied computing and data science and as a consequence, we decided not to pursue accreditation in 2016-17. Note that the computer science accreditation in Canada is provided by CIPS (Canada's Association of IT Professionals). Some in the department now hold the view that CIPS accreditation is not necessary. Several large Canadian universities (Alberta, Laval, McGill, and others) have chosen to let their accreditations lapsed. Others (UBC, Toronto) have never held CIPS accreditation. The department is currently not in favour of pursuing accreditation as we do not believe that there would be sufficient benefit in doing so.

2017 Decanal Comments: I note that several of the top-ranked Computer Science programs in the country do not hold CSAC accreditation. Thus, I recognize the Department's stance on accreditation and feel this recommendation can be considered completed.

2017 PRS Comments: The committee agreed that this recommendation is considered to be completed and that there is no need to report on it further.

PRS Comments: The committee wishes to acknowledge the department's efforts to implement the recommendations that came out of the 2012-2013 cyclical review. Some recommendations (i.e. strategic planning and curriculum review) are ongoing processes best left to the department and dean at this point. The PRS wishes Physics and Computer Science the best of luck in continuing with these processes going forward. There are no further implementation reports required in advance of the next cyclical review, currently scheduled for the 2019-2020 review cycle.

Subsequent Report Required? Yes No