

## Psychology 2017 Implementation Report

Submitted By: Roelof Eikelboom, Chair of Psychology

Date: June 13 2017

Recommendation to be Implemented	Responsibility for Implementation	Anticipated Completion Date	Additional Notes
Recommendation #2: Drop the BSc comprehensive program and transform the BSc Research Specialist stream to a Psychology/Neuroscience program.	Department Chair	July 2016	
<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other			
<p>2017 Unit Comments: We have transformed our Honours BSc Psychology: Research Specialist degree into an Honours BSc in Psychology and Neuroscience. <b>Senate approval was obtained March 8<sup>th</sup> 2017.</b> We are now in the process of advertising this new program to ensure incoming and current students are aware of this option.</p> <p>We have, however, with minor modifications, kept the Honours BSc Psychology: Comprehensive as a potential second BSc degree in psychology for the next few years until we see how successful the new BSc in Psychology and Neuroscience is and if there are any unanticipated issues that a BSc in only Psychology might address. It should be noted that this comprehensive degree requires no unique resources other than administrative support.</p>			
<p>2017 Science Decanal Comments: The creation of the Honours BSc in Psychology and Neuroscience was a strategic and valuable addition to the program offerings in Psychology. Given the interest in Neuroscience at the undergraduate level, the new program should attract a large number of very strong students. Keeping the Honours BSc Psychology: Comprehensive program is a wise decision, until such time as the Department can determine the success of the Psychology and Neuroscience program.</p>			
<p>2017 PRS Comments: The committee considered this recommendation to be completed and there is no need to report on it further.</p>			

Recommendation to be Implemented	Responsibility for Implementation	Anticipated Completion Date	Additional Notes
Recommendation #2: Add a 5 year combined Honours BSc/MSc in Behavioural Cognitive Neuroscience.	Department Chair	July 2017	
<input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Other			

2017 Unit Comments: A decision was made to defer the active advancement of this objective until we had received approval from Senate for our new Honours BSc in Psychology and Neuroscience given the interdependencies of these two programs. Now that the new BSc program has been approved, we are developing a plan for creating an integrated BSc/MSc program. We have opened a dialog with various stakeholders to discuss funding, issues surrounding taking one course that ultimately is part of two degrees, and determining the scope and size of the new program. It will clearly be a smaller program given the individual attention students will receive. Regardless, we believe the new program will have the potential to raise the profile of several of Laurier's BSc programs.

2017 Science Decanal Comments: The development of the 5-year BSc/MSc program is a timely initiative and may provide a template to develop similar such programs across the Faculty of Science. Increasing numbers of students are wishing to pursue graduate studies and such a degree will be very attractive.

2017 FGPS Acting Decanal Comments: I have seen a preliminary draft of the BSc/MSc and it looks very promising. In fact, it seems to me an excellent template on which to build similar programs across all of Laurier's undergraduate/graduate programs. I would very much like to see it go ahead as a pilot. For some time now we've been trying to devise a "direct entry" program from the undergrad to the Master's degree, but have faltered on an indecisiveness over counting senior undergraduate and graduate seminars simultaneously (but only within strict limits) for both degrees, despite the fact that this is an increasingly common practice at other Ontario institutions. This initiative is timely and necessary for the health of our graduate programs, and will bring us into line with practices at other institutions.

2017 PRS Comments: The committee believed that this recommendation had been satisfactorily completed and there is no need to report on it further.

Recommendation to be Implemented	Responsibility for Implementation	Anticipated Completion Date	Additional Notes
Recommendation #2: Develop a departmental focus on "Learning in and with the Community".	Department Chair	July 2017	

Completed  In Progress  Other

2017 Unit Comments: With the support of our administration, we have hired over the last 2 years (2015 and 2016) three great new faculty in our Community Psychology stream, which will strengthen our traditional presence in this area and replace faculty who had retired.

This year we developed several new course that have, at their heart, relations with the community:

**PS389** Positive Psychology (developed in Brantford but adopted on both campus)

**PS492** Applied Community Research a full year capstone course in community research

We are also piloting (at both Brantford and Waterloo) a new third year course (we pilot our courses as special topics before seeing approval to mount them as a formal new course)

**PS330L** North American Indigenous Psychology a third year special topics course

Our Community faculty are working with students and others to develop a Community Psychology undergraduate minor that will complement our very strong Masters and PhD in Community Psychology.

2017 Science Decanal Comments: The developments in Community Psychology are very promising. If not already considered, the Department might incorporate community service learning modules or practica into such courses.

2017 FGPS Acting Decanal Comments: These are strong developments. The new courses, as well, are strongly oriented in the direction of this recommendation. It would be good to see however, how these satisfy the "learning in" the community aspect of the recommendation. PS 492 seems clear enough in this regard, but I wonder how PS389 and PS330L serve to place students in the community and bring the community into the classroom.

2017 PRS Comments: The committee appreciated the concrete examples given by the department of the ways in which it had worked to strengthen its community focus. The recommendation is considered to be completed and there is no need to report on it further.

Recommendation to be Implemented	Responsibility for Implementation	Anticipated Completion Date	Additional Notes
Recommendation #5: Reduce or eliminate course releases for undergraduate advisors and hire a staff advisor.	Department Chair	July 2016	Staff advisors may be located centrally or in Faculty office; full outcomes on this recommendation should await the report of the university-wide undergraduate advising review.

Completed  In Progress  Other

2017 Unit Comments: We completely disagree with this recommendation and feel that the size, breath, and scope of our undergraduate programs require the specialized knowledge of experienced psychology faculty to carry out the advising role. We have no concerns that first year issues of advising and petitions be handled by the dean's office, however, there is considerable need among our students for specialized advice about our programs. We note that the report of the university-wide undergraduate advising review did not make any recommendations that suggested losing departmental advisors.

2017 Decanal Comments: I concur that there is a wealth of information that specialized undergraduate advisors can provide undergraduate students, specifically focused on course selection in upper years, and career guidance. At this point, the model of advising is working in the Faculty of Science.

2017 PRS Comments: The committee believed that changes in the advising structure across the university were outside the scope of the review process. Further changes to this process will be implemented through the Advising Review that took place in 2016. No further updates on this recommendation are required.

Unit Comments: It should also be noted that the specialization in Forensic Psychology at Brantford has been established as of September 2017.

PRS Comments: The PRS appreciates the updates and examples given by Psychology of the ways in which the recommendations that came out of the 2014-2015 cyclical review have been engaged with and implemented. The committee did not feel that any further updates were necessary, so no further reports will be required. The department's next cyclical review is scheduled for the 2021-2022 review cycle.

Subsequent Report Required?    Yes     No