FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT
February 2018
Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Bioscience
18-Month Follow-Up
Dean: Dr. Greg Crawford

Under UOIT's Quality Assurance Framework, all degree programs are subject to a comprehensive review every eight years to ensure that they continue to meet provincial quality assurance requirements and to support their ongoing rigour and coherence. Program reviews involve several stages, including:

1. A comprehensive and analytical self-study brief developed by members of the program under review.
2. A site visit by academic experts who are external to and arm's length from the program who prepare a report and recommendations on ways that it may be improved based on a review of the program's self-study and supporting material, and a two day site visit involving discussions with faculty, staff and students and a tour of the facilities.
3. Development of a plan for improvement by the program and proposed timelines for implementation.

All programs that undergo a review must provide a report eighteen months after the completion of the review to gather information on the progress that has been made implementing the agreed upon plans for improvement.

In 2015/2016 a program review was scheduled for the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy program in Applied Bioscience. The program has submitted to the Provost's Office a comprehensive chart outlining the achievements they have made made relative to the action plans resulting from the review. A summary of these achievements is provided below. The summary report is reviewed by the appropriate standing committee of Academic Council, and is subsequently reported to Academic Council, the Board of Governors and the Quality Council.

The program review site-visit was completed in May 2016. Since that time, the Faculty has made significant progress in implementing the plan of action from the program review.

- *Reframe APBS as a cohesive, interdisciplinary program. Consolidate the four Special Topics courses (APBS 7100G, 7200G, 7300G, and 7400G) in addition to APBS 7050G into one course number and change the course name to Applied Bioscience Seminar Series.*

The Faculty has removed APBS 7100G, 7200G, 7300G, and 7400G from the calendar and has created the following new courses:

- APBS 6040G – MSc Graduate Seminar in Applied Bioscience (Letter Grade)
- APBS 7080G – PhD Graduate Seminar in Applied Bioscience (Letter Grade)

- APBS 6000G – MSc Applied Bioscience Seminar Series (continuance course, non-credit (pass/fail); student enroll each semester of their program in which they are not giving a seminar for grade)
- APBS 7000G – PhD Applied Bioscience Seminar Series (continuance course, non-credit (pass/fail); student enroll each semester of their program in which they are not giving a seminar for grade)

The course title and description for APBS 7050G and APBS 6030G have been changed to Doctoral Exit Seminar and MSc Exit Seminar respectively. APBS 6600G – Design, Analysis and Interpretation of Quantitative Biological Research has been added to the elective list for the Doctoral Program.

- *Add interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary component to APBS 6010G.*

This has been done. The faculty has also noted that APBS 6100G also has an interdisciplinary component.

- *Assess the value and cost of adding additional specializations.*

The Faculty discussed this option and it was determined that the addition of new specializations would be counter-productive to attempts at enhancing the cohesiveness of the APBS program. The Faculty recognizes that there is a need, however, to enhance the visibility of APBS research and the accessibility of information regarding program scope (see communication plan below).

- *Development of an APBS communication plan.*

Pertinent APBS information is being distributed to all participating APBS faculty via email with face-to-face meetings as practical. The APBS program would like to streamline and enhance its web presence. This is an ongoing challenge, which will be addressed in coordination with the Faculty of Science Web Presence Committee. Information to be included on the APBS microsite: seminar titles and times, graduate resource information, recently published papers, notification of student successes (including defenses, conference presentations, awards, etc.), highlights individual APBS faculty, interdisciplinary research collaborations and a Twitter feed.

- *Establish annual APBS retreat to foster interdisciplinary discussions.*

Annual meetings have been held (May 31, 2016, October 19, 2017 and January 19, 2018). It has been a challenge to find conflict-free times to meet given the large number of participating APBS faculty. The end of April and the beginning of September have been suggested for future meetings.

- *Establish criteria to allow students to switch to part-time studies.*

This option was discussed, however given the laboratory-based research inherent in the APBS program, the Faculty wishes to continue to advertise the APBS program as a full-time only program. A part-time option could be considered on a case-by-case basis, with supervisor approval, to students who have completed their research and course work (MSc = 24 months; PhD = 48 months). Instances where this would be considered include but are not restricted to: students at the end of their program analyzing data/writing their dissertation; students who no longer have funding, etc. If funds are available, an end of degree scholarship for PhD students should be considered.

Next Scheduled Program Review: 2022-2024