

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation
Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

DATE: 26 February 2019

FROM: Faculty of Social Science and Humanities

SUBJECT: New Program Proposal – Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Psychology

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

The Curriculum and Program Review Committee (CPRC) reviewed the New Program Proposal in accordance with its mandate under Section III, Part 1 of the CPRC Terms of Reference and recommends approval of the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Psychology, as presented.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That, pursuant to the recommendation from CPRC, Academic Council hereby recommend the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) and Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Psychology for approval by the Board of Governors.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The proposed Psychology program is offered as a BA or BSc option. Psychology is an interdisciplinary enterprise. Traditional streams of psychology have sought to understand the domain of the mind. More recently, however, psychology has increasingly cooperated with the biological sciences. Each of these represent vibrant fields of academic inquiry, however, they also require substantively different educational underpinnings. It has thus become standard for General Psychology programs to offer both BA and BSc degree options, thereby allowing students the ability to choose the psychological education most in line with their educational and career goals.

The FSSH currently hosts a robust and successful BA degree program in Forensic Psychology that boasts a strong curriculum applying core principles of psychology to key issues of forensic relevance. Key to the program's success is the teaching of foundational courses in Psychology, to ensure students have the core skills to apply to areas of relevance to forensic issues. The

proposed BA and BSc programs in Psychology would share the teaching of these core foundational courses, but would distinguish itself from the existing Forensic Psychology BA.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

While the current full-time faculty consists of eight productive and well-respected psychologists, in order to meet breadth requirements, offer the required and elective courses on an annual basis, and continue to have psychologists teach courses in other programs and for other Faculties, the BA/BSc program will need at least one new full-time tenure-track faculty position for the 2021-2022 academic year, and one new full-time teaching faculty position, as of the 2022-2023 academic year. By 2021-22, 3-4 new sessional faculty positions will be required annually. It is not anticipated that there will be a need for an additional Academic Advising Assistant and no additional library resource acquisitions will be required.

The program will require one new laboratory space and two new office spaces by 2020-21 and 2021-22, respectively.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

Curriculum and Program Review Committee Recommendation: January 18, 2019

Curriculum and Program Review Committee Consultation: December 21st, 2018

Final Faculty Council Approval: November 27th, 2018

External Review Site Visit: August 21st, 2018

Program Development and Faculty Consultation: 2017-2018

NEXT STEPS:

- The proposal must proceed through the following approval steps subsequent to the recommendation by Academic Council:
 - Board of Governors
 - Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance
 - Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities
- The expected date of implementation is the fall semester of 2020

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- New Program Proposal with Appendices
- External Reviewer's Report
- Response to External Reviewer's Report