

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discussion/Direction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DATE: 22 February 2022

FROM: Graduate Studies Committee

SUBJECT: Program Review 18-Month Follow-up Report – Master of Applied Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Nuclear Engineering

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with Article 11 of the Ontario Tech University Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) Cyclical Program Review Procedures, eighteen months following the completion of a program review the Dean will prepare a brief follow up report and “A summary of the progress report will be approved by the appropriate standing committee of Academic Council”. This summary report will be reported to Academic Council for information and subsequently posted to the Ontario Tech corporate website.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

Eighteen months after the completion of a program review the Faculty is asked to report on the progress to date in implementing the agreed upon plans for improvement. The report is sent to the Academic Resource Committee for review. If outstanding items remain from the implementation plan at the time of the eighteen-month report, the Resource Committee will review these outstanding items with the Dean. The Committee has recommended further monitoring of these items, as indicated in the report from ARC.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

The Faculty’s plans to address any remaining resource needs are outlined in the 18-Month report. Information and support will be required from various areas of the University in order to implement the plan as originally agreed.

COMPLIANCE WITH POLICY/LEGISLATION:

The Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance (Quality Council), established by the Council of Ontario Universities in July 2010, is responsible for oversight of the

Quality Assurance Framework processes for Ontario Universities. The Council operates at arm's length from both Ontario's publicly assisted universities and Ontario's government. Under the Quality Assurance Framework, academic programs must undergo a cyclical review at least every eight years following their implementation. The purpose of the cyclical program review is to critically examine the components of a program with the assistance of outside reviewers with the goal of continuous improvement. A program review's purpose is not solely to demonstrate the positive aspects of the program, but also to outline opportunities that will lead to improvements for the future.

NEXT STEPS:

- The 18-Month FAR will be posted to the University's website

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- 18-Month Summary Report (attached)



Eighteen Month Follow-Up Report – Graduate Program Review

Faculty of Energy Systems & Nuclear Science

Program: Master of Applied Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Nuclear Engineering

Date: February 19, 2021

This program review was completed in 2019. The chart below outlines the agreed upon plan for improvement following the review. The progress that has been made on the action items is provided in the 18-month follow-up comments column on the right.

The completed report and the status of its action items will be reviewed by the appropriate standing committee(s). Please provide as much detail and rationale as possible.

Status Legend:

Complete: Accomplished action item; no further steps required.

Continuous: Initial action item complete but requires ongoing monitoring and/or enhancement.

In Progress: Progress on action item has been initiated but is not complete at this time. Outline all steps taken in the comment's column.

On Hold: Unable to complete due to other dependent factor(s).

Cancelled: Item no longer relevant or resources unavailable.

Action Items	Timeline	Status	18 Month Follow-Up Comments
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Make formal proposal to Durham College for collaboration on workshop facilities.	September 2019 – September 2020	In Progress	FESNS reached out to Michelle Hutt Executive Dean, Science and Engineering Technology, Durham College in January 2021 to begin this conversation.
Make a proposal for central workshop facilities to University management.	September 2019 – September 2020	On Hold	Given current resource constraints, it is unlikely a central workshop facility could be established at this time. However, FESNS can explore various paths to achieving such a workshop in future, and prepare a proposal for such a time as it becomes feasible. This work will begin in the near future.
Organize webcasts of prominent invited speakers.	June 2019 – May 2020	On Hold	This action item is challenged, in part, by limited resources for organisation. However, FESNS will continue to explore opportunities to make this happen, perhaps in concert with our Seminar courses.
Consider funding NE “open house” at CNS annual conference.	April 2020	Complete	FESNS hosted a booth at the CNA 2020 conference. While the CNS and CNA host separate conferences, the intention of this recommendation (to increase awareness of FESNS programs) was completed.
Propose a draft list of core courses to the faculty Graduate-Program Committee.	October 2019	In Progress	<p>A faculty-wide consultation was held in Winter 2020. In June 2020, Faculty Council voted to approve in principle, the following: To make NUCL 5060G Nuclear Concepts for Engineers and Scientists and NUCL XXXXG Introduction to Radiation Science mandatory courses for MASc students without an undergraduate degree in nuclear science or engineering; and to make NUCL 5060G, NUCL 5250G Power Plant Thermodynamics and NUCL XXXXG mandatory for all MEng students.</p> <p>In November 2020, Faculty Council voted to approve proposed changes to NUCL 5060G. Now that the content of this course is finalised</p>

			<p>the question of whether it should be mandatory (as agreed in principle) can be revisited.</p> <p>FESNS will also revisit the distinction between “core” and “mandatory” courses, and explore which (if any) courses should be defined as “core” for various research streams.</p>
Propose draft 5000/6000/7000 designation of courses to the faculty Graduate-Program Committee.	October 2019	In Progress	<p>This codification was brought before Faculty Council in July and August 2019, where it was discussed but no vote was taken.</p> <p>There are concerns about an additional administrative burden being introduced by this change, as well as about the FESNS ratio of Master’s to PhD students.</p> <p>This discussion will be reinitiated with the Faculty in Spring 2021, after the GEC has done some additional investigative and preparatory work; including draft designations, definitions and implications for program requirements, as well as supervisory and administrative workloads.</p>
Introduce PhD program change proposal to Faculty Graduate-Program Committee to split candidacy exam into qualifying exam and research proposal.	October 2019	In Progress	<p>Consultation within FESNS on the implementation of a comprehensive exam was undertaken in February 2020. No consensus was reached among faculty.</p> <p>The GEC will conduct further investigation into the rationale and implications of this change before returning to the Faculty for further discussion. Included in this preparatory work will be definitions of the various exam types to help guide the conversation.</p>

Additional comments:

None.

