ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☒

DATE: 22 November 2022

FROM: Undergraduate Studies Committee

SUBJECT: Cyclical Program Review 18-Month Follow-up – Bachelor of Arts in Forensic Psychology

COMMITTEE MANDATE:
In accordance with Article 8 of the Ontario Tech University Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) Cyclical Review and Auditing 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 and further follow-up, if required.

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:
- Following presentation to Academic Council this summary will be posted to the University's website.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:
- 18-Month Report Summary

**18-Month Follow-Up
SUMMARY REPORT
September 23, 2022
Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Forensic Psychology
Dean: Dr. Peter Stoett**

Under Ontario Tech University's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) and the Ontario Quality Assurance Framework (QAF), all programs are subject to a comprehensive review at least/at minimum 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. The visit involves discussions with senior academic administrators, faculty, staff, and students.
3. Submission of an external reviewers' report including recommendations on ways the program may be improved based on a review of the program's self-study brief, discussions during the site visit and supporting material.
4. Internal responses to the external review and recommendations prepared separately by the Program and Dean.
5. Development of an Implementation Plan prepared by the Dean including resource requirements and a timeline for acting on and monitoring the implementation of the recommendations.

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 2018 - 2020 a review was scheduled for the Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Forensic Psychology program, with a site visit on November 12th, 19th, and 20th, 2020. The program has submitted to the Provost's Office a report outlining the progress they have made relative to the implementation plan resulting from the review. A summary of this progress is provided on the following pages.

Implementation Plan Action Item(s) (corresponding recommendation # from reviewers' report)	Timeline	Status*	Comments
1. Explore the ability to continue offering online courses once the effects of the pandemic are no longer as significant an issue.	Post-pandemic era	Continuous	Forensic Psychology courses were offered primarily online during the pandemic. A mix of online and in-person courses are being offered in 2022-23. Faculty members remain committed to continuing to offer both in-person and online courses within the program with a focus on identifying and addressing academic integrity challenges with online assessments.
2. Student to TA ratio be reduced and that larger classes (over 200) get additional TAs to maintain that ratio. In addition, it is recommended that all upper-year courses get TA support.	Evaluation over the summer '21	In Progress	The guidelines for assigning TA hours to FSSH courses remain largely unchanged; requests for additional TA hours are considered on a course-by-course basis. There is a commitment to increase TA support incrementally despite the limited TA pool to draw from. Efforts will continue to be made to increase the pool by looking outside the graduate program (e.g., alumni).
4. Review of the first-year curriculum of the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities	Evaluation summer/fall '20; Implement fall '23	In Progress	Re-designing the first year for all FSSH undergraduate programs is ongoing. During the 2021-22 academic year, the FSSH First Year Committee proposed changes to provide students with more choice in terms of their first-year courses.
5. Offer the required data analysis courses in-house	New hire July '21, re-design of Data Analysis summer '21	Continuous	Continuing to offer data analysis courses in-house remains a priority for the Forensic Psychology undergraduate program.

7.	Recommend more formal relationship between Recruitment and Marketing and the Program be developed to enhance enrolment as well as student connections to and interest in the University and its Program.	June '21	Complete/ Continuous	The new Associate Dean of Undergraduate Student Experience position commenced in June 2021 with responsibilities including coordinating the recruitment efforts of faculty, advisors, and staff. The Forensic Psychology faculty remain committed to ongoing and formal communication with Recruitment and Marketing, as well as continuing to be actively involved in recruitment efforts (e.g., Open Houses, OUF).

*Process 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 the 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.*

This summary report will be sent for approval to the appropriate standing committee of Academic Council (USC or GSC), and will subsequently be reported to Academic Council. It will then be posted on the Ontario Tech corporate website.

Next Scheduled Program Review: 2026-2028