



Faculty of Health Sciences

TO: Academic Council

FROM: Ellen Vogel, Dean

SUBJECT: Response to Executive Committee Motion

DATE: June 10, 2012

This document addresses questions raised by the Executive Committee of Academic Council re: the Bachelor of Health Sciences (BHSc) Major Program proposal brief.

Background

Healthcare is a dynamic field and the environment in which healthcare is delivered in Canada, and globally, has changed dramatically over the past decade. In order for the Faculty of Health Sciences to provide career-oriented programs, it is critical to offer a relevant curriculum that prepares graduates for the 21st century workplace.

The BHSc (honours) degree was designed to engage students in the examination of diverse aspects of health, healthcare delivery and health research via a broad-based and interdisciplinary curriculum.

The program proposal brief approved by CPRC is based on the first comprehensive review and set of changes proposed for the BHSc degree since its inception in 2004. The implementation of these curricular changes will comprise a critical part of the Program Review for the BHSc, scheduled to take place in 2013 – 14.

Utilizing a highly collaborative process over a 1-year timeframe (2011-12), the BHSc program review solicited a wide range of opinions and expertise from faculty members and external stakeholders.

Recommendations from interdisciplinary working groups called for converting the current Comprehensive degree specialization into a specialization in Public Health (PH), as well as providing additional choices to students through the addition of a new specialization in Human Health Sciences.

In addition to establishing a unified curriculum in first year, these revisions are designed to provide greater coherence and academic progression between introductory and upper year courses, and to allow transition between specializations and other programs to improve student retention.

Program Enrolment

The purpose of the proposed changes is to refocus and strengthen the existing program curriculum. The goal is to provide students with focused degree pathways leading to deeper disciplinary knowledge. These proposed areas of specialization do not represent new programs (Refer to *Proposal Brief*, p. 3).

It is anticipated that program enrolment will be congruent with existing forecasts for the BHSc degree as determined by the Provost's Office. A table illustrating the current enrolments and projection for 2012-13 is attached as Appendix A to this document. As stated in the *Proposal Brief* (p. 25), all calculations for resources and course deliveries are based on current enrolments in the BHSc program.

Although the Human Health Sciences specialization is a new option for students, with the exception of two new courses, it is built upon the courses that exist to support the Public Health, Medical Laboratory Science and Kinesiology specializations. Importantly, enrolment in Human Health Sciences will come from within the existing overall degree enrolment numbers. Further, enrolment in the Human Health Sciences specialization will be limited to approximately 40-students per year as a result of needing to plan for upper-year laboratory capacity within existing teaching lab space resources.

Resource Requirements: Space

The chart attached as Appendix B is intended to provide further insight into the net changes in course delivery.

In general, the changes that are being proposed do not represent an overall net increase in the number of courses offered, and therefore do not significantly increase the need for classroom space overall. Rather, they represent a redistribution of courses and course enrolment.

Classroom space is acknowledged as an ongoing challenge that requires consideration in the delivery of new or additional courses. Hybrid and/or online delivery formats is one strategy that we are considering partly in an effort to address space issues. With one of the University's only entirely online degrees (Allied Health), the Faculty of Health Sciences is uniquely positioned to identify, develop and deliver courses with alternate deliveries in order to maximize utilization of space while implementing changes to address curricular needs.

Additionally, not pointed out in the original brief, an existing BHSc specialization, Health Information Management, was "frozen" effective Fall 2011 pending a review of the program delivery. It is expected that the outcome of this review will result in a net reduction in the number of specialized courses that are delivered in this subject area, reducing the requirement for both space and teaching resources.

Resource Requirements: Faculty

The curricular changes as proposed were developed to capitalize on the strengths of the existing knowledge- and research-bases within the Faculty of Health Sciences, such that courses can be developed and delivered utilizing the existing teaching expertise of faculty.

The hiring of two new core faculty members with a start date of July 2012 will complement the existing expertise within the faculty. Candidates were selected partly on the basis of whether they could support the strategic direction of the BHSc curriculum.

Recognizing the need to deliver courses within existing resource constraints, the delivery of elective courses was designed such that the Faculty can take advantage of “economies of scale”, deliberately utilizing appropriate core courses from other programs to meet elective requirements.

While four new elective courses at the senior level have been included in the proposal brief, the remaining courses identified as electives already exist and are being delivered routinely.

The proposal presents a comprehensive list of elective courses that are currently offered or that are newly developed. It should be noted that our intention is not to offer all courses in any given year. Rather, we propose that a selection of electives be offered annually such that students will be able to select from a list of courses that will complement the focus of their degree specialization.

Appendix A – Current Enrolments

The following enrolment figures, provided by the Provost's Office, were used as part of the budget forecasting for the Faculty of Health Sciences for 2012-13.

Planned enrolment figures were not available for 2013 – 2014 onward, however, it is anticipated that they will be in line with current enrolment figures below.

In the table below:

CMPR Comprehensive
HTHM Health Information Management

	Actual						Actual						Projected					
	Day 10 2010 Actual Heads						Day 10 2011 Actual Heads						Day 10 2012 Forecast					
	1	2	3	4	5	Total	1	2	3	4	5	Total	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Health Sciences	343	385	248	352	32	1360	363	406	314	401	39	1523	422	414	331	455	25	1648
BHSC	223	176	112	92	20	623	244	192	158	110	31	735	309	207	153	158	14	840
Health Sciences	184	127	84	71	20	486	207	149	121	83	28	588	269	161	118	119	13	680
CMPR	102	63	48	44	10	267	104	65	49	45	9	272	126	66	49	64	4	310
HTHM			5	8	7	20	2	3	10	5	9	29	5	4	9	7	5	30

Appendix B – Impact of Course Changes

Year (to be implemented)	Course Removed	Removed From (Specialization)	Course Added	Detailed Explanation of Net Change
2013 - 14	CSCI 1800U	Both	HLSC 1801U	Net new course delivery for Health Sciences; net reduction for Science
2013 - 14	Open Elective	Both	HLSC 1811U	Net new course delivery for Health Sciences; net reduction across elective courses offered by other faculties
2014 – 15	SOCI 1000U	Both	MLSC 2130U	Existing course for Health Sciences; increase in class size and TA support required; net reduction in delivery for FSSH
2014 – 15	HLSC 2800U	Both	HLSC 3820U	Neutral change
2014 – 15	HLSC 2601U	HHS	HLSC 2110U	Neutral change; Net reduction in enrolment in HLSC 2601U (and reduction in TA support) will offset increase in TA support required for existing course (HLSC 2110U).
2014 – 15	HLSC 2201U	HHS	HLSC 2465U	Net new course delivery for Health Sciences because HLSC 2201U is still required for PH (under review).
2015 – 16	HLSC 3501U	Both	HLSC 2825U	Existing course for Health Sciences; increase in class size and TA support for HLSC 2825U which is offset by the reduction in course instruction and TA support for HLSC 3501U; this course has high potential to be developed for hybrid or online delivery.
2015 – 16	HLSC 3601U	Both	HLSC 3473U	Neutral change
2015 – 16	HLSC 3630U	Both	HLSC 3631U (PH) FHS Elective (HHS)	Neutral change; new course can fulfill elective requirements for HHS
2015 – 15	Open Elective	Both	HLSC 4803U (PH) FHS Elective (HHS)	Neutral change; existing elective course for Health Sciences which will now be offered each year
2015 – 16	Open Elective	Both	HLSC 3821U (PH) FHS Elective (HHS)	Net new course delivery for Health Sciences; net reduction across elective courses offered by FHS and other faculties.
2015 – 16	Open Elective	HHS	HLSC 3463U (HHS) FHS Elective (PH)	Neutral change; existing elective course for Health Sciences will now be offered each year
2015 – 16	Open Elective	HHS	HLSC 3464U	Net new course delivery for Health Sciences; net reduction across elective courses offered by FHS and other faculties
2016 – 17	HLSC 4620U	Both	HLSC 4807U	Neutral change
2016 – 17	HLSC 4850U	Both	HLSC 4808U	Neutral change
2016 – 17	Open Elective	Both	HLSC 4310U (HHS) FHS Elective (PH)	Neutral change; new course delivery but electives have always been required in the existing program map; course will serve as an elective offering for PH
2016 – 17	Open Elective	Both	HLSC 4851U (PH) FHS Elective (HHS)	Neutral change; new course delivery but electives have always been required in the existing program map; course will serve as an elective offering for PH