

**QUALITY ASSURANCE: CYCLICAL UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM REVIEW –
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
(April 2013)**

Executive Summary

In accordance with the Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) the Department of Chemistry submitted a Self-Study (August 2011) to initiate the cyclical program review of their undergraduate programs. Volume 1 presented program descriptions, outcomes, and analyses, institutional information and statistical data. Volume 2 and 3 provided a collection of the program course outlines and the CVs for each full-time member in the Department.

Two external reviewers and one internal reviewer, selected from a set of proposed reviewers, examined the materials and completed a day and a half site visit February 2012. The visit included interviews with the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Deputy Provost, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies (SES), the Acting Chair of the Department of Chemistry, and meetings with full-time teaching faculty and support staff. The Review Team also had an opportunity to meet with a group of undergraduate students, and to visit the undergraduate laboratories, library, and the Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute (TBRI).

In their report (May 2012), the Review Team provided feedback that describes how the Chemistry programs meet the Quality Assurance Framework evaluation criteria and are consistent with the University's mission and academic priorities. The admission standards, curriculum structure and delivery, and teaching and assessment methods are appropriate, reflect the current state of the discipline, and are effective in preparing graduates to meet defined outcomes and the University's undergraduate degree level expectations. The Department makes effective use of the available resources. The faculty members are active in research and have secured external funding that is used extensively to support students in the chemistry programs. The Review Team was impressed by the positive attitudes and strong program endorsement displayed by the group of students who were interviewed. A number of suggestions were provided to help guide future curriculum reviews. In addition, the Review Team provided recommendations with supporting rationale for future consideration.

The Chair of the Department of Chemistry, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty, submitted a response to the Reviewers' Report (September 2012). Specific recommendations were discussed, and clarifications and corrections presented. Follow-up actions and timelines were included. A Final Assessment Report was prepared to provide a synthesis of the external evaluation and internal response and assessments of the undergraduate programs delivered by the Department of Chemistry. The report identifies the significant strengths of the program, the opportunities for program improvement and enhancement, and sets out and prioritizes the recommendations that have been selected for implementation. The report includes an Implementation Plan that identifies who will be responsible for approving the recommendations set out in the Final Assessment Report; who will be responsible for providing any resources made necessary by those recommendations; any changes in organization, policy or

governance that will be necessary to meet the recommendations; who will be responsible for acting on those recommendations; and timelines for acting on and monitoring the implementation of those recommendations.