



Quality Assurance Cyclical Program Review

Faculty of Natural Resources Management – Honours Bachelor of Science
in Forestry

Executive Summary and Implementation Plan

October 2015

In accordance with the Lakehead University Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), the Faculty of Natural Resources Management submitted a self-study (July 2012). Volume 1 presented the program descriptions and outcomes, an analytical assessment of their programs and program metrics including results from a student survey along with institutional information and statistical data. Volumes 2 and 3, respectively, provided a collection of the program course outlines and the CV's for each full-time member in the Department.

One external reviewer and one internal reviewer, selected by the Senate Academic Quality Assurance Sub-committee (SAC-QA) from a set of proposed reviewers, examined the materials and completed a two-day site visit in March 2013. The visit included interviews with the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Deputy Provost, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Resources Management, Program Chairs (HBScF and HBEM), core faculty, technical and support staff and the University Librarian. The Review Team also had an opportunity to visit University facilities (e.g. the Library, laboratories and other teaching spaces) and meet with alumni, community partners, graduate teaching assistants, and current students.

In their report, submitted March 2013, the Review Team provided feedback that describes how the HBScF program meets the Quality Assurance Framework evaluation criteria and is consistent with the University's mission and academic priorities. They reported that 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 (DLE's). The Review Team deemed the HBScF program a high quality undergraduate program due in part to the processes and resources such as the non-credit Writing Across the Curriculum and Field School components as well as the Summer Intensive sessions that help prepare transfer students. Students, Faculty and Staff are engaged and successful through various opportunities for students to participate in research projects, complete an Honours

Thesis and by integrating research into the undergraduate curriculum. The NRM Faculty are actively engaged in the regional communities, industry and government as well as with alumni. The Faculty has adequate support staff, technical support, academic services and physical resources for effective delivery of the program. In addition, the Review Team provided recommendations with supporting rationale for future consideration.

The Review Team also identified areas for improvement through recommendations regarding enhanced international exposure, recruitment expansion, some programming changes and community service.

The Chair of the Program, in consultation with the Dean of Natural Resources Management, submitted a response to the Reviewer's Report (August 2013). Clarifications and corrections were presented followed by a response to each of the recommendations made by the Review Team.

A Final Assessment Report (FAR) has been prepared to provide a synthesis of the external evaluation and internal response to the recommendations. This report identifies the significant strengths of the programs, the opportunities for program improvement and enhancement, and sets out and prioritizes the recommendations that have been selected for implementation.

The Implementation Plan identifies who will be responsible for approving the recommendations set out in the FAR; 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.

Programs covered by this cyclical review:

- *Honours Bachelor of Science in Forestry*

Implementation Plan (Part A): Departmental Responsibilities Faculty of natural Resources Management

Recommendation	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility*	Timeline
Increase international exposure	Provide opportunities for students, including planned trips for China and eastern Europe	Program Chairs	Ongoing
Expanding recruitment activities beyond Ontario colleges	Work with Enrolment Services to take advantage of existing and future initiatives in this area. Establish contacts with chairs and department heads of existing college programs to inform them of the existing transition program. Continue efforts to meet with students and administrators and teachers at every college in Ontario offering appropriate diploma programs. Dean to action specific efforts in Manitoba and/or Saskatchewan for the 2013-14 period.	Program Chairs, Dean	Ongoing
Greater integration of business aspects of forestry into the curriculum	Develop and integrate newly revised Forest Products and Marketing stream into program. Continue to work with the Faculty of Business Administration to seek opportunities for additional business courses.	Program Chairs	Ongoing
Develop a stronger focus on northern communities through partnerships	Work with companies already engaged in northern communities to support and enhance their efforts.	Faculty, Program Chairs, Dean	Ongoing
Strengthen service to the community through outreach courses	Offer at least one community-based workshop per year	Faculty, Program Chairs, Dean	Ongoing

Recommendation	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility*	Timeline
Continue to develop teaching and other opportunities in the bio-based economy	Develop and integrate newly revised Forest Products and Marketing stream into program	Faculty, Program Chairs, Dean	Ongoing
Develop new courses and programming to address the needs of the society	Identify and consider opportunities for new programs and courses	Faculty, Program Chairs, Dean	Ongoing
Develop a strategic plan for seeking and admitting international students	Develop new international collaborations in Europe, India, South Africa and South America	Program Chairs, Dean	Ongoing
Encourage undergraduate students to pursue scholarships and internships	Communicate appropriate LU and non-LU scholarships information websites to students	Program Chairs	Ongoing
Develop experiential learning activities and community service learning partnerships to enhance active student engagement in Field School	Review Field School activities	Program Chairs	Ongoing
Greater student involvement in meetings and related planning activities	Hold monthly feedback sessions	Program Chairs, Dean	Ongoing
Promote program's accreditation to help students appreciate its importance and understand the ramifications	Incorporate information about Ontario Professional Foresters Association (OPFA) and accreditation on their websites and encourage students to seek out more information.	Program Chairs	Ongoing

Implementation Plan (Part B): Decanal & Administration Responsibilities

Recommendation	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility*	Timeline
Develop a stronger relationship with Orillia faculty to increase exposure of the program within the Orillia region	Build connections with faculty and regional natural resources stakeholders	Dean	Sept 2014
Develop a plan to enhance the presence of NRM in the Orillia region and as a way to recruit students into the program	Explore possible delivery models for Orillia	Dean	Sept 2014
Require students to maintain a minimum 70% overall grade in the HBScF program	Investigate a) funding levels associated with Honours and non-Honours programs in Forestry, and b) historical records to determine the potential number of students affected by this change; and c) mechanisms for instituting a BScF for those students who do not achieve the 70% overall average. The Dean will bring this item to the Faculty Council for discussion and debate in Fall 2013.	Dean	Fall 2013

*The Dean of the Faculty, in consultation with the Department Chair shall be responsible for monitoring the Implementation Plan. The details of progress made will be presented in the Deans' Annual Reports and filed in the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic).