

APPENDIX X: Final Program Review Summary Sheet
Please continue on a separate sheet, if necessary.

<p>Program: B.Sc. Program (Honours, Majors and Faculty Programs) Faculty: Science</p>
<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>We have split our recommendations into three groups, starting with those that we suggested in our program review document, followed by those suggested by the external reviewer, and then those suggested by the APC discussion. Some recommendations were suggested from more than one source, and we include those only once.</p> <p>Please see the following sheets for a summary of recommendations.</p>
<p>Action Plan(s):</p> <p>We have integrated all of the recommendations above and set out our resulting actions plans. Many of these actions have already been taken, or are part of the continuing initiatives taken by the Faculty of Science.</p> <p>Please see the following sheets for action plans.</p>

Recommendations

Recommendations from the Review Document

1. Several of the recommendations from the Honours Program Review Group (PRG) dealt with the issue of clarifying the distinction between the Majors programs and the Honours programs and ensuring appropriate recognition of the extra work required in an Honours program.

2. The Majors PRG recommended clarifying the goals of the Major programs and studying a reasonable range of program credits that should be required for a single-discipline, joint and interdisciplinary major program.

3. The Faculty Programs PRG found that the Faculty programs were not well defined and uneven across the Faculty. As part of the review process the Faculty Programs were retired and replaced by the new B.Sc. Liberal program, which provides a uniform framework for students who wish to have some depth in a discipline plus breadth in another discipline.

Recommendations from the External Reviewer

4. The external reviewer suggested reviewing the minimal requirements for upper-year courses, research requirements, and CGPA requirements for Honours programs.

5. It was suggested that the Faculty of Science clarify the goals and outcomes of the Majors programs.

6. As general comments on the “three I’s”, the external recommended looking for ways to reduce the gender gap in some disciplines, to attempt to reduce the gender gap in the Honours programs, and to find ways to encourage female undergraduates to continue to graduate studies.

7. The external suggests that McGill have some way of following their graduates in order to track their progress and to help evaluate how the programs could be improved. This could be done as an exit survey and/or as a follow-up some number of years after graduation.

8. It was suggested that the Faculty of Science review the grading in Honours courses to see if Honours students are disadvantaged in CGPA.

9. The external commented very positively on the many undergraduate research initiatives underway and suggests looking at alternative teaching methods, particularly with respect to labs and work-study opportunities

Recommendations from APC review

The APC reviews and minutes highlight many of the recommendations put forward by the Faculty of Science review document and the external. All of the key issues raised have already been listed above.

Action Plans

Overall the Faculty of Science was very pleased with the results of our review and has already completed the largest action item, that of replacing the Faculty Programs with the new B.Sc. Liberal program. Further, over the last few years we have also made substantial gains in undergraduate research, introducing interdisciplinary programs, and further improving upon our already strong tradition of student advising. The following list discusses the remaining action items.

Clarify the roles and goals of B.Sc. Liberal, Majors and Honours programs

A common theme brought up in all of the recommendations was the need to clarify the goals and roles of the three kinds of B.Sc. programs, the Liberal, Majors and Honours. We have already started doing this by developing a web page for prospective Science students where we describe the various options. We will continue with these efforts and we will also ask the departments to ensure that their calendar entries and departmental web sites give complete explanations. Of course, personal advising via the new SOUSA (Science Office for Undergraduate Student Advising) office and via departmental advisors is also very important in helping students find the right program for them.

Study the requirements and standards for Honours programs

The Honours students in the Faculty of Science are very strong students who usually complete very demanding programs and often continue on to graduate studies. We would like to ensure that all Honours programs have an identifiable added component over the Majors programs. We will also work towards making sure these extra Honours components are clearly labeled; for example, by examining Honours course titles.

The CGPA requirements and entrance requirements are necessarily somewhat variable across departments. However, we will examine whether or not some minimum CGPA cutoffs should be raised and if some Honours programs or courses lead to lower CGPA scores than in a comparable Major.

Tracking students

Some of the PRGs noted that it would have been useful to have had more information about our graduates. The external reviewer and APC also noted this. We see two ways of proceeding. Within the Faculty we can consider an exit survey, perhaps coordinated by the SOUSA office and the departments. It would also be useful to have some central administrative support for tracking students after they have graduated. This could perhaps be done in cooperation with McGill Development and Alumni Relations.

Gender equality in programs

The enrolment numbers in the Faculty report show an uneven distribution of women by major and also by type of program. This was particularly noticeable in the lower level of women in

the Honours programs, which can lead to lower levels of women at the graduate level. We will discuss possible initiatives with the departments and also with SOUSA.

Improvements to labs, work experiences and field studies

In recent years the Faculty of Science has focused on improving undergraduate research opportunities. As pointed out in the review documents, we would now like to focus on improving and modernizing the lab experiences, as well as extend our support of work experiences and field studies. For the labs we have several new initiatives that combine physical renovations to labs with the development of new approaches to lab-based learning. This includes the development of new approaches, new ways of doing experimental labs and the involvement and training of graduate students in the development and offering of such labs.

We will also continue to work on extending our offerings in field studies and work experiences. We have recently created the position of Global Opportunities Officer who works on both Field Studies and Industrial opportunities. We have recently increased our academic offerings to include a Field Studies Minor, two new Industrial Practicum courses and a reworked Internship in Science program. Our Global Opportunities Officer works in collaboration with CAPS to ensure that Science students have the opportunity for work experience.