

Queen's University  
Executive Summary of the Review of the School of Environmental Studies

The School of Environmental Studies submitted a self-study on May 2, 2015 to the faculty of arts and science, school of graduate studies and the office of the provost and vice-principal (academic) to initiate the cyclical program review of its undergraduate and graduate programs [BA, BSc, BScH, MES and PhD]. The approved self-study presented program descriptions, learning outcomes, library report and analyses of data provided by the office of institutional research and planning and the school of graduate studies. Appendices to the self-study contained CVs for each core faculty in the school of environmental studies and the library report.

Three 3-length reviewers (Peter Duinker, School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University; Mark Seasons, Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo; and, Paul Martin, Department of Biology, Queen's University) examined the materials and conducted a site visit on November 19 & 20, 2015. The site visit included interviews with the vice-provost (teaching and learning), vice-provost and dean and associate dean.





## Summary of the Reviewer's Comments/Recommendations with the Internal Responses

### Undergraduate Program

The review team recommended the establishment of a BAH Major program in environmental studies.

The school of environmental studies responded that it is exploring this option grounded in existing faculty expertise and capacity, differentiated from and complementary to other units within arts and science.

The associate dean of science responded that the faculty is supportive of curriculum revision in the school, but pointed out that a review must be taken of the six underenrolled BScH specialization programs in various aspects of environmental science. The response went on to say, that a review must also consider the impact of introducing a BAH Major would have on cognate units. Faculty policy states that new programs must demonstrate that they will be successful in bringing in new student enrolments, without negatively impacting enrolments elsewhere in the faculty, as well as maintaining or increasing the quality of incoming students.

### Graduate Program

The review team recommended increasing the MES enrolments (course based stream) by removing advisor and funding requirements, expanding courses and offering an internship component.

The school responded that it will explore these recommendations. Adopting the recommendations could extend graduate training opportunities, decrease financial burden on faculty advisors, and generate revenue. However, a number of concerns were raised within the school including: the faculty resources required to offer additional course offerings, impact on other programs, and the need for additional funding.

Analytical Services Unit (ASU)

The review team commented on the ASU and the key support role it has played in the school's environmental research.

The associate dean of arts and sciences responded that the faculty is well aware of the importance of the ASU to the school's research in other cognate units (e.g. biology). The ASU has seen a significant reduction in external contracts over the last several years. The faculty has already engaged with both the director of the ASU and the school of environmental studies.

Implementation Plan:

Recommendation	Proposed Follow -up	Responsibility for Leading Follow -up	Timeline for Addressing Recommendation
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