

Internal Academic Review 2008-2009

Department of Chemical Engineering Internal Academic Review Committee Report to Senate

The Internal Academic Review (IAR) of the Department of Chemical Engineering is now complete. The Internal Academic Review Committee (IARC) has taken into consideration all of the submissions related to the IAR of the Department of Chemical Engineering and respectfully submits the following report. The IARC Report to Senate is intended to supplement the findings of the attached Review Team Report and to provide a mechanism for the Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering and the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science to jointly report on the progress in addressing the Review Team recommendations (please see the "Outcomes" section of this report).

Summary of the Internal Academic Review of the Department of Chemical Engineering

The IARC acknowledges the Department of Chemical Engineering as a strong department that provides high quality teaching, innovative scholarship and research and exemplary service to the University, profession and the greater community. The Department should be commended for its collegial and supportive atmosphere, its dedicated faculty and support staff and the solid leadership provided by its Head.

The Department of Chemical Engineering should be congratulated for encouraging its graduate students to establish a graduate student club by offering financial assistance. Such initiatives contribute to the positive, supportive and collegial environment that is one of the distinguishing features of the Department. The IARC recognizes the Department's actions to address the recommendation that core engineering courses be introduced for graduate students.

The IARC shares the External Consultants', Review Team's and Department Head's concerns about the poor ventilation in Dupuis Hall. The IARC had made the Director of Environmental Health and Safety aware of the situation.

In collaboration with the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, the IARC congratulates the Department of Chemical Engineering on developing a departmental strategic plan that encapsulates the Faculty's sustainability objectives.

The IARC recognizes the Department's significant efforts in increasing the representation of women faculty and encourages the Department to continue to pay special attention to diversity issues when hiring new faculty.

The IARC encourages the Department of Chemical Engineering to continue to address the External
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balance exceptional teaching, exceptional research and service while addressing the recommendations of the IAR reports, in a concerted effort to maintain a high level of performance and success.

Outcomes of the Internal Academic Review of the Department of Chemical Engineering

The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science and the Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering welcome the positive review of the department's activities by the IARC. We have set several processes in motion to address the specific recommendations of the committee.

Outcomes – Recommendations and Actions:

1. **Development of an up-to-date Strategic Plan** – the Chemical Engineering department has had a strategic planning initiative underway since May 2008, with strategic planning follow-up retreats held in

flow to the basement graduate offices in particular. To date, no progress has been made on the overall ventilation system front in Dupuis Hall.

6. **Graduate core courses** – over the past 6 months, the Graduate Coordinator and Graduate Assistant have met with each of the OCGS-accredited research groups to establish “priority core” courses for each field. Priority core courses will be offered on a continuing and regular basis, and supplementary courses have been identified that will offered on a periodic basis.

7. **Access to technical services** – a review of how scheduling and provision of technical services has been initiated between the Head and Department Administrator, with the goal of introducing a scheduling mechanism to track and allocate time.

8. **Graduate student club** – in January 2009, the graduate students in Chemical Engineering were approached and invited to form a graduate student club, with financial support from the department and fundraising amongst the graduate students to help fund various activities. From the start, there has

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