



Internal Academic Review 2007-2008
School of Environmental Studies
Internal Academic Review Committee Report to Senate

The Internal Academic Review (IAR) of the School of Environmental Studies is now complete. The Internal Academic Review Committee (IARC) has taken into consideration all of the submissions related to the IAR of the School of Environmental Studies 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 Director of the School and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and 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 School of Environmental Studies

The School of Environmental Studies has evolved significantly since its inception in 1995 and is to be recognized for its admirable achievements and progress in a short period of time. The IARC agrees with the IAR Report and acknowledges that the School of Environmental Studies (SES) is now at a critical point in its evolution due, in part, to the university-wide resource limitations. The IARC encourages the SES to recognize this as an opportunity to refine the School’s role within the University’s strategic plan and continue to develop as a national leader in environmental and sustainable education and research.

The SES has become an established unit at the University. The IARC concurs with both the IAR Team Report and the External Consultants’ view that the School, in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts and Science, should continue annual updates to its strategic planning process in an effort to realize its full potential and refine its future purpose and goals.

With respect to the leadership of the School, the IARC agrees with both the IAR Team Report and the External Consultants’ Report that serious consideration should be given to introducing a full-time Director to lead the School into the next stage of its development. This recommendation should be considered when both the Faculty of Arts and Science and the SES agree that the resources are available and the timing is appropriate.

The IARC applauds the SES for establishing interdisciplinary opportunities in an environment of fiscal constraint, and encourages the School to continue to preserve the strong core program while building strategic partnerships to enhance interdisciplinary programming. The SES’ multidisciplinary approach to teaching and its strong linkages with other areas within the University and externally to Queen’s are commendable. This approach to learning has allowed the SES to offer an interesting undergraduate and graduate program that is appealing to students and continues to increase enrolment. The IARC supports the recommendation by the IAR Team that the School of Environmental Studies work in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts and Science to continue to build strong partnerships with participating faculty members and to reduce any systemic barriers that may impede interdisciplinary programming.

Internal Academic Review (IAR) Team
Report on the
School of Environmental Studies (SES)
February 28, 2008

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Office of the
Vice-Principal (Academic)

Summary: After establishing itself as a credible academic unit within the University, the SES is at a critical point in its evolution. The major challenge now facing the SES is to

deserves a chance to excel, and thus recommendations have been formulated with the expectation that the next step for the School, be a significant step. It is critical that the SES develop a vision or strategic plan, but this is unrealistic given a 50% appointment of School Director, and effectively "part-time" faculty. We recommend that a full-time

- attracted outstanding faculty who are committed to supporting the School and its programs;

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- attracted strong and committed leadership;
- demonstrated the ability to be financially responsible;
- built a strong and mutually beneficial relationship with the Analytical Services Unit (ASU);

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- academic review will provide the School with a critical assessment of its role within the University, and how it is perceived within and outside of Queen's;

School;

- increasing public and student interest in effective strategies for responding to environmental concerns.

The challenge that has focused the IAR team's deliberations is: *What is the next phase in the evolution of the school?* The SES has a unique opportunity given the need for and

- strong science base;
- increasing engagement of the public by the SES about contemporary

base are unique and distinguishing characteristics of the School.

We have identified the following **weaknesses**:

- lack of clear vision or direction for the School;

Secondly, since all faculty have a "home" department other than the SES, the primary

on a dated agreement, and should probably be reviewed, for the purpose of strengthening and sustaining the ASU and strengthening this unique partnership.

Ph.D. program: We feel that it is premature for the School to be considering a PhD program at this time until it has established a faculty base to provide continuity and

permanence, a clear focus in its research mandate and direction, and has fully developed and sustained its Master's program.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mr. Rick Boswell, Staff, Department of Chemistry
Mr. Ben Bradley, doctoral student, Department of History

~~Prof. James D. ... Department of ...~~