

**REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
TO THE REGULAR November 2015 SENATE**

FOR INFORMATION

Eighteen-month follow-up from ACAPLAN's recommendations from the Undergraduate Program Review for the following program: Interdisciplinary Human Development Program

Below is an excerpt from the Institutional Quality Assessment Process at Laurentian University approved at the Quality Council in June 2011.

PROCESS FOR FOLLOW-UP

No later than 18 months after Senate submission, those responsible for implementing the changes write a report to the Dean and to ACAPLAN, on the actions it has taken in response to the review. If ACAPLAN does not find the response satisfactory, it may ask the program for further actions.

**RESPONSE TO THE SEPT 2013 REPORT TO SENATE
ON THE ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING INTERDISCIPLINARY
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

Introduction

At the time of the IQAP program review, the Master of Arts/Science in Interdisciplinary Human Development (IHD) was a bilingual program in which Psychology, Human Kinetics, Sociology, and related fields were combined to provide students with an integrated view of health and human development over the life course. The program (also known as DEVE) had been successfully reviewed from its inception in 1979 thru to and including its fifth review in the fall of 2012. The current report speaks to the recommendations of ACAPLAN that arose from the fifth review. It should be noted that the review was based on the DEVE program as described in the 2011 self-study document, which reflected three contributing units (Psychology, Human Kinetics, Sociology) under the joint responsibility of two Deans (Social Sciences and Humanities; Professional Schools).

In February 2013, the Program responded to reviewers' comments. ACAPLAN also received written comments from both deans to whom the Program reported as well as the Director of the School of Graduate Studies.

Effective July 2013, the Program was moved into the School of Rural and Northern Health (SRNH) within the Faculty of Professional Schools, in response to a recommendation from the review team. In September 2013, the program name was changed from Interdisciplinary Masters in Human Development to Interdisciplinary Masters in Health. Please also note that the Faculty of Professional Schools name was changed July 1 2014 to the Faculty of Health.

The current report provides Senate with the progress that has been made regarding the recommendations that were contained in the September 2013 Report to Senate.

The Program

Student Issues

- a. The downturn in current enrollment statistics for the Program, particularly for Francophone students, warrants a concerted effort to actively promote and recruit students (particularly those outside Laurentian University).

Response

Active promotion of the program and recruitment of students has proven effective, resulting in a significant increase in enrollment, with the admission of 13 students in the Fall of 2014. However, the majority of these students were Anglophone. We are requesting that the Liaison Office develop and execute a plan to recruit Francophone students for the program.

Program Issues

- a. “The establishment of an interdisciplinary research design course (e.g., re-establishing DEVE 5206) as a dedicated DEVE course seems especially important in this regard.”

Response

INDH 5206, has been reinstated as a core course in the program and is currently being offered in the 2015 Winter term.

- b. “The thesis orientation course (DEVE 5000/5005), should also be revived”

Response

INDH 5000/5005 is now part of the program timetable and a responsibility of the Coordinator. A key function of the course is to facilitate continuous progress on the Thesis/Major Paper. In addition to providing a forum for program updates and presentations such as the LU ethics review process, students develop and revisit a 2-year plan that captures key events (both academic and non-academic) that they anticipate dealing with as part of their graduation trajectory.

- c. “Students may benefit from greater structure in the lab component of courses”

Response

Discussions have been held with both the Department of Psychology and the School of Human Kinetics regarding lab experiences within courses that can be considered for the program. Attention is also being directed to additional course offerings with lab components, such as Nursing and Independent Studies. Further details will be discussed at the program retreat scheduled for late August, 2015.

- d. “the special topics course, “Biopsychosocial Approaches to Disability” should be made a full course with its own course code”

Response

The INDH Program Advisory Committee (PAC) has recommended establishing Biopsychosocial Approaches to Disability as an INDH elective.

- e. “A new direction focused on lifespan to include gerontology and the elderly populations would be promising, particularly if strengthened through linkages with NELHIN and Huntington’s Gerontology Program.”

Response

The INDH PAC will put forward a proposal for a special topics course within the program covering the topic of ‘Ageing over the Life Span’, and that the course be considered for cross-listing with other graduate programs.

- f. “Given the plan to develop Occupational Health and Safety undergraduate and graduate programs, and with its new curricular emphases, the DEVE Program would certainly share some content; thus, it may be useful to consider means by which any new programs in health studies could establish productive alliances with (e.g., via student recruitment, transfer into graduate programs, etc.) and build upon an interdisciplinary program (IHD/DEVE) that is already in existence, and that is well regarded within Laurentian University and the community.”

The INDH program is now located within the newly established Faculty of Health and places it in an excellent position to explore common interests and synergies, as new programs evolve. The formal launch of the Centre for Occupational Safety and Health provides the first such opportunity, as the current Director of CROSH is also associated with INDH.

- g. “The DEVE committee members need to articulate a shared vision and direction with the faculty in the parent disciplines although there seems to be an emerging consensus around the Program's emphasis on health and well-being in northern communities.”

Response

Given the relocation and renaming of the IHD/DEVE program to INDH, developing a shared vision is to be a main topic of discussion at the INDH Retreat in late August.

Faculty and Staff Issues

- a. Retain or recover, where possible, the team-teaching approach to DEVE courses, and especially to core DEVE courses.

Response

The INDH PAC recognizes the central role that team-teaching has played in advancing the interdisciplinary basis of the program and hence its contribution to the five successful provincial reviews of the program. However, the administration has not been supportive of workload assignment necessary to support the interdisciplinary team structure.

- b. “Make the discussion of interdisciplinarity, and the means of achieving and promoting it, the subject of explicit discussions at DEVE committee meetings”.

Response

Interdisciplinarity is reflected in the discussions on developing a shared vision for the program. Furthermore, we encourage all students to consider the disciplinary background of their committee members and strive to ensure diversity of perspectives.

Research Issues

- a. Address the delays students experience in the Research Ethics Board Review process.

Response

Steps have been taken to reduce delays and improve the speed of moving a thesis proposal to approval stage. Each new student will have established an agreement with a thesis supervisor on acceptance in to the program. Students will be expected to complete the Tri-council tutorial on the ethics process in the winter of their first year in the program. Each year, as part of INDH 5000/5005, a member of the Research Ethics Board will present/discuss the Laurentian ethics review process.

- b. “Much could be done to strengthen the link between DEVE and the CRHD and to raise the profile of both”

Response

CRHD is in the process of reorienting its focus towards the area of gerontology and older adults, in keeping with the growing concern with this sector of the population being raised by the health care system. A working relationship has been developed with the NELHIN in the area of older adults, which provides a portal that would assist those INDH students and LU faculty who might have interests in this growing area of

concern. The Director of CRHD is now on faculty in the School of Rural and Northern Health and actively participates in the INDH program.

Vice-President Academic and Provost

Resource Issues

- a. Retain a space (with adequate technological supports, such as computer stations and printers) where students can work and gather as a collective group.

Response

Dedicated student space has been provided within the School of Rural and Northern Health (SE-211). At present, there is sufficient physical space for the students; however, it is not fully utilized due to lack of security, lack of power outlets at the desks, and lack of social supports (including food vendors) at this end of campus. We are optimistic that the extensive remediation in the Alphonse Raymond Building will result in less need to share space and social space at this end of campus, which will be attractive for the INDH students.

VPA Response – I can confirm that dedicated space was provided as support for the School of Rural and Northern Health which is responsible for this program.

- b. The University should consider providing course releases to the DEVE Program Coordinator.

Response

Course release time of 3 credits is now provided for the INDH Program Coordinator.

VPA Response – Workload issues are within the purview of the Dean and a resolution was found as noted.

- c. “After the Program sharpens its focus and before the next review, funds should be allocated to develop and disseminate marketing materials that can be shared within the University but also be used to recruit students from outside Sudbury.”

Response

Action will be taken on development and dissemination of marketing materials when key matters pertaining to vision/direction, re-engagement of “DEVE” faculty from the “parent disciplines” (Anglophone and Francophone), team teaching, and elective

courses with lab components are addressed. Involvement of Liaison Services and Marketing will be essential. The program requires support from senior administration to make graduate recruitment a priority for the liaison office.

VPA Response – this does not fall directly within my portfolio, however, through the Acting Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies we are pursuing the Graduate Expansion Plan which include providing additional resources to accommodate the planned growth.