

**REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
TO THE REGULAR November 2019 SENATE**

FOR DISCUSSION

Eighteen-month follow-up from ACAPLAN's recommendations from the Program Review for the following program: INDIGENOUS SOCIAL WORK.

Below is an excerpt from the Institutional Quality Assessment Process at Laurentian University approved at the Quality Council in June 2011 and revised in 2018 and 2019.

PROCESS FOR FOLLOW-UP

No later than 18 months after Senate submission, those responsible for implementing the changes writes a report to the Dean and to ACAPLAN, on the actions it has taken in response to the review.

**QUALITY ASSURANCE – CYCLICAL PROGRAM REVIEW OF LAURENTIAN
UNIVERSITY'S HONOURS BACHELOR PROGRAM in INDIGENOUS SOCIAL WORK**

Recommendation	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility for Leading Follow-up	Director's Response on the 18 mth follow-up	Timeline
R3: Create a course for credit that focuses on writing, proper formatting, grammar, sentence structure, etc.	Look into a program change that would involve adding a course from outside the unit.	School Director	We have many 2nd degree or transfer credit students. Establishing a mandatory writing course would only create another barrier to completing the BISW degree. We encourage new students to take an academic writing courses either online or on campus.	Aug. 2019
R2: Increase clear communication to students from Laurentian University generally, and the HBISW program specifically.	We look forward to ensuring that our HBISW students utilize research lab spaces and engage with research software such as NVIVO. The School is working with the Web Coordinator, Indigenous Liaison and marketing to ensure that our marketing	School Director	Our Field Access admin staff has created student portals (nearly two years ago) through D2L, where all students can find resources, complete forms, connect to their plan of study, and connect with other students and faculty. They also have access to workshops that are relevant to the students. Our BISW senior students have access to the ISLC lab where there is computer equipment and space. Our MIR lab space software is updated regularly. (From time to time, some of the	Aug 2019

	<p>materials/program pathways/alumni messages for the HBISW are up-to-date and are accessible. With respect to resources and queries, the Director will meet with the Dean about ensuring that the program receives adequate resources. We can create a link to Indigenous Studies on our website with a strong encouragement from SIR to choose their courses as potential electives. A map outlining a pathway about our Plan of Study and courses offered can be uploaded to the website, our D2L and Facebook site as well as distribution to faculty/staff and students.</p>		<p>BISW senior students use the MIR lab).</p>	
<p>R6: Examine curriculum for which courses are being taught and when, with an emphasis on first and second years, with the aim to lessen the weight for fourth year.</p>	<p>The faculty has agreed to review all courses to better assess assignment distribution. We will also review the 4th year assignments given that fourth</p>	<p>School Director</p>	<p>At our faculty meetings, all courses are discussed and reviewed, particularly with respect with even distribution of assignments, especially 4th years. We remain mindful of the pressures that students are under, especially to ensure their field placement hours are aligned.</p>	<p>Aug 2019</p>

	<p>year on-campus course are all day Monday from 8.30 to 8pm. This serves two purposes: ease the stress of many assignments being due on the same day and secondly it encourages faculty to develop a team approach toward integrated assignment stair casing.</p>			
<p>R12: Ensure there is more technical support for distance education students.</p>	<p>The Director will work more closely with CAE and DE to ensure a transparent and supportive technical support environment for DE students.</p>	<p>School Director</p>	<p>In the first instance, all students are encouraged to call the LU Tech Hub for any technology difficulties, as they are the experts and have the equipment to deal with tech issues.</p> <p>For content, a student portal has been created that allows students to connect with the Field Access person who coordinates the answers on behalf of faculty, staff and admin.</p>	<p>Aug 2019</p>
<p>R13: Educate distance education students about going to the correct staff for technical assistance and ensure they are not going to the faculty and staff in the HBISW program for this. Ensure HBISW faculty and staff are aware of who the proper technical assistance staff are and that they refer students to them.</p>	<p>We will create a MAP (way finder) showing a pathway for student enquiries i.e. DE, D2L, Director, Secretary, Field, Faculty etc. This MAP way finder will be uploaded to our website, D2L and Facebook sites. All faculty will share this MAP with their students.</p>	<p>School Director</p>	<p>A described above, we created a student portal which provides a pathway finder for all inquiries. Our Field Access staff interacts with the portal daily.</p> <p>This portal pathway concept was presented at the CASW conference in 2018. Other schools showed great interest in what we had developed at LU.</p>	<p>Aug 2019</p>

<p>R15: Conduct an overall program review with one focus on how the program’s content is different from the mainstream program’s content, but also examining whether or not the pedagogy is different. For example, consider how ecological and person-in-environment social work theories can be taught by going for a walk on the land.</p>	<p>The faculty will include more traditional and environment teachings across all courses. Most of the HBISW courses will be taught in the new ISLC building where the elders are situated, there is a round room that permits smudging, there will be an outside Arbour for teachings around the fire as well there will be a traditional medicine garden. There are also opportunities to take students on field trips to Atikameksheng First Nation and other relevant visits with FN communities. Being on the land and drawing on Indigenous teachings differentiates our program with the School of Social Work.</p>	<p>School Director</p>	<p>The School has fully supported land-based activities across the BISW program. As an example, our faculty and students, along with Elders, constructed a Wigwam on campus, which served as a teaching space for our program.</p> <p>Some faculty engaged in field trip activities with Indigenous communities.</p> <p>These land-based activities are among the Indigenous activities (e.g., ISLC, cultural training, Elders, workshops) that enrich our program and differentiate it from the School of Social Work.</p>	<p>Aug 2019</p>
<p>R16: Improve the HBISW website by adding photographs, bios on faculty and part-time instructors, research that faculty are conducting, etc., as</p>	<p>Yes, we aim to update and improve our website with the suggestions above.</p>	<p>School Director</p>	<p>The University has updated all Schools including ours and given us more tools to add our uniqueness as faculty or students.</p>	<p>Aug 2019</p>

<p>this is what potential students want to know and they primarily get information via websites about what universities they are interested in.</p>				
<p>R17: Train all faculty and part-time instructors on how to use D2L and consider that part-time instructors be compensated for this training.</p>	<p>Yes, we aim to work with DE/CAE on training faculty and part-time instructors on D2L. The Director will work with DE/CAE for compensation for those sessional faculty members who teach on the DE program to engage in D2L training.</p>	<p>School Director</p>	<p>The D2L program sends out emails regularly to all D2L instructors inviting them to do the training, to use their support systems. They are quite effective at giving up all needed information on new upgrades.</p> <p>We encourage all of our BISW D2L instructors to engage with their D2L portal.</p>	<p>Aug 2019</p>
<p>R21: Discuss whether or not to develop an Indigenous Masters of Social Work (IMSW) degree with current students, alumni, LUNEC, etc., including that Wilfrid Laurier University has an excellent IMSW program and the faculty do not want to create something that is already there, but that some students are asking for.</p>	<p>Discussion of the costs and benefit of adding this program will be examined.</p>	<p>School Director Dean of Health Dean of Graduate Studies</p>	<p>In Spring 2019, the School approved the idea of looking into the feasibility of a Indigenous MSW. A committee has been struck to obtain information from CASWE and the VP-Academic. The committee comprises faculty, students, and community. The committee provides progress reports to the School regularly.</p>	<p>Aug 2019</p>