

**REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
TO THE REGULAR June 2020 SENATE**

FOR DISCUSSION

Eighteen-month follow-up from ACAPLAN's recommendations from the Program Review for the following program: **Liberal Science renamed Interdisciplinary Science**

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
LIBERAL SCIENCE RENAMED INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE
18-MONTH FOLLOW UP REPORT**

The 7 recommendations put forward by ACAPLAN in September 2018 in order of priority are found below along with the progress that has been made.

1. Self-identify, name change

a. Create student society

Students were contacted throughout the term 2018 -2019 to create a society. The response was poor. This is not unusual as interest really depends on the student cohort and the needs of the students.

An attempt was made to create a sense of community: a Facebook page was created for students to connect and keep informed of the latest news. The page has 6 members, 3 Faculty, 3 others (presumably students). The Facebook page was updated in 2020, "Laurentian University - Interdisciplinary Science", click www.facebook.com/groups/767832270224529/

b. Hosting of program-based event

An advising fair was organized to try and assemble the students in Liberal/Interdisciplinary Science. The Program has recruited a student (Mr. O. Rost) to sit on the Interdisciplinary Science Program committee. Hopefully this will stimulate student interest in the Program.

c. Relocation to the School of the Environment

There is no update on this item. The Program has created an advisory body, the "Interdisciplinary Science Program Advisory Committee". Discussion with the group was not favorable for being under a unit, rather it was felt that the Program would be best served by reporting directly to the Dean's Office. It is logical since the Interdisciplinary Science

program depends on the offerings provided by a number of units. It was felt that all units should have some say on the evolution of the program for it to remain truly interdisciplinary.

d. Renaming of programs

Done. The programs have been renamed as follows.

“Bachelor of Science (3 Year) in Interdisciplinary Science”

“Baccalauréat ès sciences (3 ans) en Sciences pluridisciplinaires”

“Bachelor of Science (4 Year) in Interdisciplinary Science”

In addition, minor modifications were made to the programs after consultation with the advisory committee to clarify the Program requirements. This has been effective since 2019 September.

Marketing

e. Work with liaison

f. Work on the webpage

The Program is already linked to Liaison and other internal communication bodies. The program has a presence at OUF, and Laurentian’s Open House.

The Web designer and Marketing department have helped designing new posters and promotional material. Posters, flyers, zap banners and other artifacts have been printed and available. Zap banners have been designed to stay at a permanent location. The Centre for Academic Excellence (CAE), a central point for student advising, is a logical placement for these banners (to be followed and implemented).

2. Program Advisory Board

a. Identify members

The members of the “Interdisciplinary Science Program Advisory Committee” are full-time members of their home units as defined by the Collective Agreement. Others are members of the Centre for Academic Excellence. All these members volunteer their time for various functions within the Program.

Members of the Interdisciplinary Science Program Advisory Committee with their individual roles and their years of service (in no particular order):

Name	Unit	Contribution/role	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
F. Caron	SOTE/Lib. Sci	Coordinator/Mirarco	√ Mir.	? Mir.	Sab.
H. Joly	Associate Dean	Advisor/ Coord.	√	√	√
C. Barriault	Science Comm.		Not at the meeting		
F. Colin	Mathematics		Not at the meeting		
G. Spiers	SOTE +		√	√	Sab.
P. Beckett	Biology +		√	√	Sab.
J. Dennie	CAE		√	√	√

B. Lafrance	Earth Sci.		√	√	√
S. Lamothe	Biology		√	√	√
O. Rost	Int. Sci.	Student rep	√	√	√
B. Brockerhoff-MacDonald	LU OnLine/CAE		√	√	√

√	= active member
?	= status uncertain for these dates due to sabbaticals or other leaves

b. Determine the function

The terms of reference for the program advisory committee are being reviewed for years 2020-21 and 2021-22. We are staggering the membership to maintain continuity. It is hoped that this will help with recruitment, marketing, student events, and program development.

3. Establish themes/streams

- a. Review existing options
- b. Develop plan and discuss structure
- c. Implement

“Streams” and advising forms (Excel spreadsheets) have been identified more clearly and posted on the web page (needs updating). The formal program changes submitted to the Faculty and CELP/CPF have emphasized simplicity and self-guiding. The science streams (two subjects plus MATH and COSC) have been clarified, the literacy courses (ENGL, FREN, INDG) are well laid out.

4. Links with Science Communication MSc

- a. Explore additional options

There is definite synergy between the Interdisciplinary Science and Science Communication Programs. Graduates of the Interdisciplinary Science program have a broad scientific background and are well prepared for careers requiring individuals to communicate science to the general public. The program has included SCOM 4006 Presenting and Communicating Science. We have talked to the Dean (February 2020) about formalizing and strengthening our ties with the Science Communication program. It was felt that at that meeting, this opportunity could be pursued at another time, when or if a clear plan is developed.

5. Science Communication Course, 3rd year

- a. review existing courses to determine if there is a fit
- b. if needed develop course
- c. implement

No progress in 2019-20. There could be an opportunity to add several courses to an on-line or hybrid form, due to the health crisis of 2020.

6. LIBS 4006 delivery methods

- a. Explore options

The main Coordinator (F. Caron) and course instructor for LIBS 4006 has accepted an Industrial Chair at MIRARCO. F. Caron continues to be a program advisor at large for

continuity, meetings and updates, and for strategic direction. Due to the secondment Dr. Caron has not offered LIBS 4006 in the recent past. Students have been fulfilling their requirements for the degree by taking SCOM 4006. There could be an opportunity to develop LIBS 4006 into a hybrid form as a spinoff of the health crisis of 2020.

Table I: Enrolment

The student enrolment for the last seven (7) years is shown in this Table. These represent the total number of students enrolled per year (source: Tableau, capture 2020-04-13).

Program/ year	2012 F	2013 F	2014 F	2015 F	2016 F	2017 F	2018 F	2019 F
Liberal Sciences (3-yr)	79	51	38	20	25	35	40	38
Interdisciplinary Science (3 yr)								6
Sciences libérales (3 ans)	11	8	11	8	6	5	6	3
Sciences pluridisciplinaires								6
Liberal Sciences (4-yr)	40	55	82	61	76	55	57	31
Interdisciplinary Science (4 yr)								26
Total all years	130	114	131	89	108	95	103	110

Table II: Graduates

The graduates of the program are given here for the last seven (8) years (source: Tableau 2020-04-13)

Program/ year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Liberal Sciences (3-yr)	7	14	10	8	3	14	7	
Sciences libérales (3 ans)	3		1		1			7
Liberal Sciences (4-yr)	7	3	2	4	4	2	4	2
Total all years	17	17	13	12	8	16	11	9