



University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP) Cyclical Review: Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan

Programs Reviewed:	Human Biology Undergraduate Programs Genes, Genetics and Biotechnology, B.Sc., Hons.: Specialist, Major Global Health, B.Sc., Hons.: Specialist, Major Health and Disease, B.Sc., Hons.: Specialist, Major Neuroscience, B.Sc., Hons.: Specialist, Major Health Care Ethics, B.Sc., Hons.: Major Human Biology, B.Sc., Hons.: Major Environment and Health, B.Sc., Hons.: Specialist, Major
Division/Unit in Which Programs are Housed:	Faculty of Arts and Science
Commissioning Officer:	Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science
Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):	1. Professor Lawrence Spriet, Human Health and Nutritional Sciences, University of Guelph 2. Professor Michael Timko, Department of Biology, University of Virginia
Date of Review Visit:	March 20–21, 2014
Date reported to AP&P:	October 27, 2015

Unless otherwise noted, all bulleted comments apply to all programs reviewed.

1 Outcome

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that there were no issues to be drawn to the attention of the Agenda Committee but requested a follow up report in one year on modifications to the Global Health and Environment and Health undergraduate

programs, as well as improvements to facilities, and the faculty and staff complements. The follow-up report will be considered by AP&P at the Cycle 2 meeting in 2016-17.

2 Significant Program Strengths

- Unique interdisciplinary nature of the programs
- Strong student demand for programs
- High quality, geographically diverse students
- The Faculty of Medicine's contributions to teaching in the programs

3 Opportunities for Program Enhancement

The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:

- Re-assessing the program offerings, guided by academic rationale
- Examining the quality and academic rigour of the programs
- Reviewing the impact of high student enrolment on the programs
- Supporting faculty in balancing teaching and research activities
- Ensuring strong support for the programs
- Exploring opportunities for suitable faculty and administrative space and laboratories

4 Implementation Plan

The Dean undertook in consultation with the Program to support the following changes:

- Immediate Term (6 months)
 - Re-assessing the program offerings, guided by academic rationale
 - The Faculty ceased enrolment in the Health Care Ethics Major in 2014-15 and will begin closure of the program in Fall 2015.
 - The Faculty made major modifications to seven programs: Genes, Genetics and Biotechnology (Specialist and Major) – now named the General and Applied Genetics programs; Health and Disease (Specialist and Major); Neuroscience (Specialist and Major) and Human Biology (Major).
 - Examining the quality and academic rigour of the programs
 - The Faculty instituted required courses in introductory genetics and statistics for students in all programs.
 - Reviewing the impact of high student enrolment on the programs
 - The Program has participated in the b2B program (backpack to Briefcase) and in several workshops, and will expand participation in and frequency of such opportunities.
 - The Program is reviewing its academic staffing complement and may increase advising capacity.
 - The Faculty's major modifications have resulted in streamlined course offerings, which has provided clearer pathways for students and facilitated course selection and program progression course selection and program progression.

- Supporting faculty in balancing teaching and research activities
 - The Program Director has initiated formal discussions with the Department of Cell and Systems Biology regarding appointing HMB faculty to CSB as their home unit
 - The Program Director has hired a lecturer with expertise in neuroscience, imaging and clinical research.
- Ensuring strong support for the programs
 - The Faculty, Vice-Dean of Teaching and Learning, and the Program Director will examine the Administrative Staffing Complement.
- Exploring opportunities for suitable faculty and administrative space and laboratories
 - The Program will use dedicated space in the Ramsay Wright Laboratories in 2016, almost doubling the capacity for lab course offerings.
- Medium Term (1–2 years)
 - Re-assessing the program offerings, guided by academic rationale
 - The Program Director and faculty will conduct curriculum reviews of the Global Health Specialist and Major and Environment and Health Specialist and Major.
 - The Faculty will review the Environment and Health Programs in conjunction with the UTQAP review of the School of the Environment
 - The Faculty will modify the Global Health Programs in coordination with the other initiatives within A&S and with other Inter-Divisional partners.
 - The Faculty has established an advisory committee to help maintain the excellence in the program curriculum and teaching. The Director, along with the advisory committee will work to establish MOAs with other units who provide teaching and research opportunities for Human Biology students to maximize their experience.
 - Examining the quality and academic rigour of the programs
 - The Program has been working closely with the Dean's Office and the Departments of Cell & System Biology and Ecology & Evolutionary Biology to expand and modernize lab course offerings for HMB students in the planned renovations of the Ramsey Wright teaching labs.
 - The Program is working with the Dean's Office in Arts and Science to develop new strategies to enable non-FAS faculty members to take advantage of various undergraduate funds, including the Dean's International Initiative Fund (DIIF) and the International Course Module program (ICM) thereby increasing international learning opportunities for students. The Program will continue to partner with New College to enhance existing initiatives.
 - The Program has partnered with the Faculty of Medicine to organize the Undergraduate Research Day to showcase undergraduate research opportunities available to HMB students.
 - Reviewing the impact of high student enrolment on the programs
 - The Program will implement a formal faculty advising program for students.
- Longer Term (3–5 years)
 - Ensuring strong support for the programs
 - The Director will work with the FAS Dean's Office to formalize agreements with FAS units and the Faculty of Medicine, which will help to address resource and complement issues.

- Exploring opportunities for suitable faculty and administrative space and laboratories
 - The Director will work with the FAS Office of Infrastructure Planning to determine what their space requirements are and what temporary options are currently.

The Dean's Office will follow up annually with the unit to assess progress.

5 Executive Summary

The reviewers identified the programs' strengths as the unique interdisciplinary nature of the programs; strong student demand for programs; high quality, geographically diverse students; and the Faculty of Medicine's contributions to teaching in the programs. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: re-assessing the program offerings, including their quality, academic rigour, and supports for high student enrolment; supporting faculty in balancing teaching and research activities; and examining space issues. The Faculty plans to close the Health Care Ethics Major, has made major modifications to seven of the programs, and has instituted required courses in introductory genetics and statistics for students in all programs. The Program is reviewing its academic staffing complement and advising capacity, and has added to its teaching staff. The Program will use dedicated space in the Ramsay Wright Laboratories in 2016. The Director will work with the FAS Dean's Office to formalize agreements with FAS units and the Faculty of Medicine, which will help to address resource and complement issues. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that there were no issues to be drawn to the attention of the Agenda Committee but requested a follow-up report in one year on modifications to the Global Health and Environment and Health undergraduate programs, as well as improvements to facilities, and the faculty and staff complements. The follow-up report will be considered by AP&P at the Cycle 2 meeting in 2016-17.