



Senate Committee on University Planning

Academic Unit Review Summary: DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Site Visit	February 12-13, 2015
Informal Response to Planning	May 22, 2015
Formal Response to Planning	November 25, 2015
Implementation Update	May 4, 2017
Midterm Review	2018-19

Review Team Members:

- Dr. Jim Clark, Psychology, University of Winnipeg (Chair of the Review Team)
- Dr. Suzanne Prior, Psychology, St. Thomas University
- Dr. Frank Strain, Economics, Mount Allison University

Recommendations of the Academic Program Review

1. Recommendations for Faculty Complement
 - a. Increase the psychology faculty complement to a level more commensurate with student demand and faculty workload in other departments.
 - b. Review the criteria and processes by which faculty positions are allocated to determine whether they appropriately weight student demand, class size, and like factors that challenge popular departments like psychology.
 - c. In the case of a close ranking for psychology and other departments, allocate an available position to psychology.
2. Recommendations for the Psychology Program
 - a. Review requirements for the honours program, considering whether it is necessary to restrict the number of honours students or take other actions (e.g., non-thesis option, prerequisites) given current staffing levels.
 - b. Given current teaching resources, examine ways to ameliorate some of the consequences of the popularity of psychology courses and the demand for additional breadth of courses (e.g., appropriate cross-listing of courses with other departments, limiting enrolment).
 - c. Review the placement and content of lab courses, including consideration of student concerns (e.g., redundant content in second year).
3. Recommendations for Space
 - a. If and when the current occupants are relocated to more appropriate space, allocate the third floor of Crabtree to psychology.

- b. Form a committee to develop a master plan to renovate psychology space and allocate resources to implement the plan including appropriately configured research space, a department room for meetings and related uses, a computer lab, space for students, and office space for new faculty.
 - c. Especially if third floor expansion is delayed, develop and implement a plan to make the basement more functional and attractive, dealing with such issues as accessibility, enhancing safety, avoiding isolation, and achieving some of the goals in 3b.
4. Recommendation for Research Funding
- a. The university should give high priority to increasing internal funding to support research, and broadening the eligibility and evaluation criteria to include non-junior faculty members.
5. Recommendations for Support Staff
- a. Find some means to ensure that the second floor Crabtree office is continuously staffed during working hours.
 - b. Maintain a complement of three Technician/Lab Instructors as ongoing appointments.