

Internal Academic Review 2008-2009

School of Nursing Internal Academic Review Committee Report to Senate

The Internal Academic Review (IAR) of the School of Nursing is now complete. The Internal Academic Review Committee (IARC) has taken into consideration all of the submissions related to the IAR of the School of Nursing and respectfully submits the following report. The IARC Report to Senate is intended to supplement the findings of the attached Review Team Report and to provide a mechanism for the Director of the School of Nursing and the Associate Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences to jointly report on the progress in addressing the Review Team recommendations (please see the “Outcomes” section of this report).

Summary of the Internal Academic Review of the School of Nursing

The School of Nursing has made a number of significant changes since its last internal academic review. It should be applauded for successfully launching a PhD program, for continuing to offer a MSc degree and for its participation in an innovative consortium to deliver a Master of Science for Primary Health Care Nursing degree. These accomplishments have all been achieved while maintaining a quality undergraduate program and substantially increasing both the quantity and quality of the School’s research portfolio. The School should also be recognized for the quality of its students, staff and faculty, its collegial working environment and its overall learning environment.

With respect to the undergraduate program, the IARC encourages the School of Nursing to continue to focus on improvements needed to bolster the curriculum including strengthening the relationship, involvement and integration between the School and its cognate faculty members.

The IARC agrees with the Review Team recommendation that the thesis-based MSc program should continue as it is a gateway into the PhD program. The acute shortage across North America of Nurse Educators with PhDs and the desire to expose students to multiple research inquiry approaches reinforces the need for a strong MSc program. To ensure that Masters and PhD students continue to complete their degrees on time, the IARC encourages the School to continue to closely monitor the progression of its graduate students.

The IARC encourages the Nursing Faculty and their graduate students to invest further time and resources in peer-reviewed publications that are published in reputable Canadian and International Journals.

Despite the current constraints on space and resources, the IARC recognizes the School of Nursing as a strong and energetic component within the Faculty of Health Sciences. The IARC fully supports the School’s efforts to balance the requirements of its undergraduate and graduate programs while at the same time recruiting and retaining excellent clinicians, scholars and researchers. The IARC also recognizes that the pending reorganization of the Basic Science departments and the overall restructuring of the Faculty of Health Sciences may impact the future direction of the School.

**Outcomes of the Internal Academic Review of the
School of Nursing**

*Joint response submitted by the
Vice-Dean (Academic), Faculty of Health Sciences and the
Associate-Dean and Director, School of Nursing*

1. A process of annual meetings has been established with cognate departmental faculty who teach Arts and Sciences courses in the undergraduate nursing programs. This process will significantly improve both curricular management and communication with teachers external to the School.
2. A system for monitoring student progression through graduate programs has been established. The process includes requirements that students provide annual written progress reports, that there are regular student-supervisor meetings to monitor progress and that supervisors regularly submit written reports on student progress to the Graduate Program Committee.
3. The School recognizes the importance that its faculty undertake high quality scholarship that is manifested in publication in high impact national and international journals. Strategies are underway to enable and foster the development of the School's research programs and the scholarly productivity of both its faculty and graduate programs.
4. To address the major challenges imposed by the severe limitations of space in the School of Nursing, planning is underway to identify additional space and potential funding sources. Success in improving the School's infrastructure will be a critically important enabling factor to the future development of both its educational and research programs.