

TO: Mike Mahon
President

DATE: February 8, 2011

FROM: Bob Boudreau
Chair, University Review Committee

RE: M.Sc. Management Academic Quality Assurance Review

In accordance with the U of L *Academic Quality Assurance Policy and Process*, the University Review Committee approved the M.Sc. Management program review results at its February 2, 2011 meeting. The M.Sc. Management quality assurance review produced four documents:¹

- 1) *M.Sc. (Management) Program Review* (July 31, 2006) – self-study report drafted by the Program Review Committee.
- 2) *M.Sc. Management Programme External Review* (August 2006) – prepared by external reviewers C.R. Hinings (University of Alberta) and Raymond A. Hackney (Manchester Metropolitan University).
- 3) *M.Sc. Management Review Committee Program Response* (October 25, 2006) – memo providing the response of the Program Review Committee to the external review.
- 4) *Response to External Examiners' Evaluation of the Faculty of Management MSc Program* (November 8, 2010) – response to the external review, written by Richard Perlow, Associate Dean of Management.

The self-study reported that the M.Sc. Management is a solid program that has emerged from initial growing pains and administrative discontinuities with several commendable features (small size, short program length, and cohort design) and a strong alumni base.

The external review of the M.Sc. Management fully endorsed the program, calling it “a significant step in developing graduate level work,” and provided several recommendations for improvement. These recommendations included: developing a Ph.D. in Management; revisiting some elements of program organization; regularly reviewing course content; and improving student funding and program marketing.

¹ All documents are available upon request.

In his response to the review results, Associate Dean of Management Richard Perlow noted that the review provided “valuable insights into our graduate program” and that the Faculty has begun work to address recommendations arising from the review:

- Management's vision document, which has been endorsed by faculty members, includes a goal to offer a doctoral program by 2016.
- In response to reported confusion by students over the purpose of the program's research component, student research is now clearly defined as a thesis, not a research project.
- Related to administrative discontinuities, the current director of the program has been serving in this capacity for five years.
- The curriculum has been recently modified.
- Financial support offered to students has improved since the time of the external review. Students receive a fellowship in their first year of attendance that covers the cost of tuition in that year.

Dr. Perlow also notes that since the Faculty of Management now operates out of Markin Hall, graduate student offices have improved in quality, though there is still a need for dedicated classroom space and improved space for teleconferenced graduate courses.

The University Review Committee is satisfied that the M.Sc. Management academic quality assurance review has followed the U of L's academic quality assurance process appropriately, and acknowledges the successful completion of the review.

Regards,