

Response to Review of Undergraduate Programs in Earth Sciences Update on the Action Plan – August, 2017

Following the Carleton University Committee on Quality Assurance meeting on August 10th, 2016, the Committee requested receiving further updates on some of the fifteen recommendations offered by the external reviewers which formed the basis for our Action Plan. Please see below an update on the requested items which includes a new hire in petroleum geoscience (#3), efforts to secure funding for an endowed chair in Resource Geology (#4), confirmation of the replacement of retiring technical staff should be provided (#6) and an update on attempts to secure suitable, perennially dry storage space (#7).

3) Recommendation: Addition of a new faculty in soft rock geology (e.g., Petroleum Geology, or siliciclastics), nanotech or medical/health geology to capture existing or emerging demands in the Earth sciences.

Update: We will pursue opportunities such as the Banting Fellowship program to strategically increase our Faculty complement according to recommendation 3.

4) Recommendation: Work with the Dean of Science and Advancement Officers to secure funding for an Endowed Chair in Resource Geology (unique to region).

Update: In cooperation with the Dean of Science and Advancement, we are continuing to approach philanthropists who may support the Endowed Chair, seek out ‘connectors’ that may help us identify prospective donors, work developing better connections with our Alumni, and continue to improve our image and publicize the department’s achievements. We continue to meet with potential donors at the annual Prospectors and Developers Conference (PDAC). Resource Geology is ever expanding beyond the traditional mining and petroleum sectors and it is critical that we put forward a strong presence in this domain at Carleton University.

6) Recommendation: Secure commitment from the Administration for the strategic replacement of retiring technical staff.

Update: The next foreseeable retirement is Mr. Peter Jones, our microprobe specialist. This equipment is critical to teaching and research work in the department. During the budget meeting with Dr. Deugo, the interim Dean of Science and Dr. Butler, the former Dean of Science, the Dean’s office recognizes that this position is built into the base budget and Mr. Peter Jones will be replaced within the department of Earth Sciences.

7) Recommendation: Secure suitable, perennially dry storage space for irreplaceable geologic samples and expensive field equipment.

Update: No apparent progress has been made in securing the required dry secure storage for instruments and collections. Our valuable library of samples in HP\1040 is still exposed to threat of seasonal and periodic floods. Although work has been undertaken this past year in basement mechanical room HP1040, which houses our assigned archival and research rock/equipment storage, the work was limited to upgrading building electrical, water and HVAC systems. The space itself remains the same; it leaks whenever there is a significant water “event” (spring run-off, major thunderstorms), old rusty leaking steam pipes still exist overhead in some areas, and wooden rock cabinets continue to be destroyed by mold. Our materials are still not properly secured as this space is accessed by various FMP service personnel, building contractors and other departments who store materials here (physics, university computer hardware services). Thus, this recommendation has not been addressed; we are still in need of dry, secure storage. We have discussed the dry storage issue with Dr. Deugo, the Dean of the Faculty of

Quality Assurance, Action Plan
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Science, and have suggested a few locations for dry storage for collections, instrument, field equipment, and Lab space. Dr. Deugo has started a discussion with FMP and continue to liaise with the University Strategic Space planner.