

**Human-Computer Interaction**

**Update on Unit Response to External Reviewers' Report & Action Plan**

**Programs Being Reviewed: Graduate Programs**

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**Approved by Dean: Dr. Maria DeRosa, November 28, 2022**

**Note: This document is made available for public posting on the Vice- Provost's website.**

**\*\*\* Denotes items that SQAPC would like the unit to pay particular attention to based on their past review of the original action item.**

External Reviewer Recommendation	Original Action Item	Owner & Timeline	Progress Update June 2022	Will the action described require calendar changes? (Y or N)
1. <i>Governance: Consider having a single HCI Master's degree, which may partially address the tenuousness of the program with respect to dedicated courses and seats for students, student supervision and recognition for this work, slow operational processes, and TA allocation. (Deficiency)</i>	Consult with HCI and unit Directors, and Deans.	<i>HCI Director will initiate meeting with the Dean of Science</i>	<i>We accomplished these changes in late 2021, and recruitment for Fall 22 was to a single MHCI degree. We also negotiated a solution to the TA issue, which TAships being assigned to the unit of the thesis supervisor.</i>	<i>Yes, done in FALL 21 for the Fall 22 calendar.</i>
2. <i>Tracking the program: consider periodic alumni surveys and other mechanisms for tracking job outcomes for alumni, as well as other information and feedback (e.g., salary, most useful courses, potential new courses), as one way to measure overall quality of the program. (Deficiency)</i>	We have already begun preparations for alumni outreach, planning regular contact and an annual survey.	<i>HCI DIRECTOR – 1 Year</i>	<i>We set this up in 2021 and will conduct this regularly. We now have Alumni web pages and a group on "Linkedin".</i>	<i>No</i>
3. <i>Program review: consider having a formal process for periodically reviewing program level learning outcomes assessment as well as the overall curriculum. (Concern)</i>	We will form a curriculum committee of the director and instructors of the three core courses, to identify and monitor how course learning outlines relate to the overall learning outcomes of the program. In particular, we will specifically consider the roles of the different disciplines involved in the program. We will also monitor to ensure experiential learning is supported within the program.	<i>HCI DIRECTOR – 1 Year</i>	<i>We are now doing this, and recently held a session in June 2022.</i>	<i>No</i>

	We will initiate this in the next year and conduct regular reviews thereafter.			
4. <i>Faculty incentives for accepting to supervise students: Consider ways of better aligning incentives for departments and individual faculty, so that faculty are more willing to take on HCI Master's students as supervisors. (Concern)</i>	Consult with HCI and unit Directors, and Deans.	<i>HCI Director will initiate meeting with the Dean of Science</i>	<i>The assignment of TAs to the supervisor unit has accomplished a significant incentive for faculty members to supervise, because it brought TAs to their unit. This was especially important to units with a need for TAs with strengths in HCI . An unexpected issue that arose was the assignment of 13K offers to international students, which differs across faculties. This led to TAs associated with 13K offers going to units supporting the 13K, but different to that of the supervisor.</i>	<i>No.</i>
5. <i>Review hiring practices: We recommend that the Deans responsible for this program review hiring practices to cover teaching needs for the HCI program. (Weakness)</i>	Consult with HCI and unit Directors, and Deans.	<i>HCI Director will initiate meeting with the Dean of Science</i>	<i>This was discussed with unit Directors, and new faculty hires in HCI were made by Computer Science, Information Technology, and Design. Moreover, in addition to the three core units (Comp Sci, Cog Sci, and IT), we now have active thesis supervisors from ID, SCE, Business, Architecture, Geography, Law, and Journalism.</i>	<i>No.</i>
6. <i>Integration of disciplines: Consider developing a clearer definition articulating how the different disciplines are integrated into the program. (Weakness)</i>	We will take steps to articulate this better on the program website. We will also address this in changes made to the calendar description of the program when recommendation 1 is addressed. One challenge is that in much work in HCI, the different disciplinary aspects are integrated. However, we can indicate the disciplinary perspectives taken in the core and research methods courses.	<i>HCI DIRECTOR – 1 Year</i>	<i>We have had discussions on this topic and feel the new faculty recently hired (2021/2022) will make this easier than it has been in the past. Our program committee will consult with the new faculty members and develop a statement for the website on how the various disciplines contribute and collaborate within the program.</i>	<i>No.</i>

<p>7. <i>Review use of space in HCI Building: Consider reviewing the use of space in the HCI building, in terms of how space is allocated, possible additional lab space for the program, and possible commons areas for students. (Weakness)</i></p>	<p>Consult with HCI and unit Directors, and Deans.</p>	<p><i>HCI Director will initiate meeting with the Dean of Science</i></p>	<p><i>This issue was made difficult by the pandemic and lack of opportunities to visit space. Moreover, OVPRI transferred some of the space in HCI Building level 3 to OD Science. This needs more work as we return to campus.</i></p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>8. <i>Design: Consider ways of expanding and integrating design more into the program. (Opportunity)</i></p>	<p>Consult with HCI and unit Directors, and Deans.</p>	<p><i>HCI Director will initiate meeting with the Dean of Science</i></p>	<p><i>We feel this will likely be addressed by having the new faculty member in Design: Prof. Juan Jimenez Garcia, who has a background and research in Interaction Design in HCI.</i></p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>9. <i>Connection with other programs at Carleton: Consider more connections between the HCI Master's program and other parts of Carleton, to strengthen the program. Some examples include Health Sciences, Neuroscience, and Accessibility. (Opportunity)</i></p>		<p><i>HCI Director will initiate meeting with the Dean of Science</i></p>	<p><i>We have not yet addressed this item.</i></p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>10. <i>Co-op program: Consider ways of offering a co-op program as part of the Master's program. (Opportunity)</i></p>	<p>We are actively looking into co-op or other approaches to internships.</p>	<p><i>HCI DIRECTOR – 2 Years</i></p>	<p><i>We explored this, but many faculty members were concerned that it would increase the overall length of the program.</i></p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>11. <i>Support for job search: Consider offering more support for students looking for jobs, perhaps through more explicit support (such as CLUE), or perhaps through existing mechanisms that already exist at the university. (Opportunity)</i></p>	<p>We already do some things along these lines. Specifically, we have close links with the Ottawa HCI professional association, and Ottawa HCI annual conference (CanUX), and encourage our students to get involved. We will explore what more we can do and link it with efforts for better contact with alumni.</p>	<p><i>HCI DIRECTOR – 1 Year</i></p>	<p><i>We now have a sponsorship arrangement with CAPCHI (Ottawa HCI professional association) to promote our program and better industry connections. We already had good relations with the CANUX conference, but this has not been held since the start of the pandemic.</i></p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>12. <i>Expanding the program: Consider more discussions amongst the faculty as to what size the HCI Master's program is desirable. (Opportunity)</i></p>	<p>Consult with HCI and unit Directors, and Deans.</p>	<p><i>HCI Director will initiate meeting with the Dean of Science</i></p>	<p><i>We now have more faculty members willing to supervise theses, which will address the main constraint.</i></p>	<p>No.</p>

