Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering and Architectural Conservation and Sustainability Engineering

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

Programs Being Reviewed: Undergraduate Programs

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Approved by Dean: Larry Kostiuk October 8, 2024

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	Have calendar changes been initiated or completed (Not applicable/Yes/No), if Yes, when
For each of the reviewed	The Undergraduate Programs Committee (UPC) will work with the groups making up each program to analyze the current courses,	CEE Associate Chair Undergraduate Studies	Note: Timeline should have been referenced to the Academic (not Calendar) Year	Yes (2023-2024)
undergraduate	focusing on the experiential learning content in each program.	(ACUS) Academic (as the		There may be future
program	Subject to this internal analysis of the experiential elements, the	Chair of UPC);	Note: UPC is now Department Academic Planning	calendar changes
(Environmental, Civil, and ASCE), sufficient	UPC will explore the conditions, requirements and constraints to support successful outcomes for developing experiential learning	Department Chair; Dean, Faculty of	Committee (DAPC)	
bona fide experiential	activities. Some of the issues include the available lab space,	Engineering and Design	CIVE program has already gone through changes to	
and hands-on lab	schedule, tools & equipment, and support staff. The expected		increase elective options in fourth year; ACSE has	
components should be	learning outcomes and GAs will also need to be mapped.	2024-2025 Calendar Year	gone through changes to have more distinction	
designed and inserted	UPC will also hold consultations with the Department's Advisory		from CIVE; ENVE is under discussion for changes to	
in applicable course	Committee.		improve program progression. Labs have already	
components to ensure	It is expected that expansion of experiential learning activities will		been added in courses such as CIVE 4209 (CIVE	
students have the	require additional lab space and staff. It is noted that work is		program) and ACSE 3209 (ACSE program).	
hands-on experience to	underway to convert CB5301 into teaching lab. A request for one		However, more time is needed to clarify the status	
succeed outside of a	additional lab staff has already been made in the 2022-2023 budget		of a proposed position (Materials Engineering) to	
school setting.	submission to support current activities and more help may be		serve both CIVE and ACSE programs, which is	
(Weakness)	needed if considerably more lab activities are developed.		currently uncertain due to budget constraints. The	
			new structures of all three programs will be	
	Agreed to if additional resources permit		reviewed to add emphasis on experiential learning.	
			Calendar changes will be created for courses with	
			added EL component. See also the response to item	
			9.	

2.	The continual improvement process should include a method for gathering feedback from employers and recent graduates. The frequency of gathering feedback can be annual or every two years. (Weakness)	The continual improvement (CI) process in CEE is closely tied to the other engineering programs. The Engineering Academic Planning Committee (APC) has recognized the need to collect feedback from current students, recent graduates, and employers. The co-op office collects feedback from employers. But we are not sure of the response rate and not all students are enrolled in the co-op program. So, conducting analysis (every year or every other year) based on feedback from co-op employers will likely be from a small data set. Data were collected in the past from current students and work is underway to collect more data from students (including graduating students) and co-op employers. Both the CEE Department Chair and ACUS-Academic are members in APC and will share this point with APC Chair (Associate Dean – Policy and Planning) and other members representing the other engineering departments for the identification, assessment and development of an efficient and effective system for engagement (mode and process for communications), and database management (survey mandate, confidentiality, security). Agreed to if additional resources permit	CEE Department Chair and ACUS-Academic; Associate FED Dean — Policy and Planning 2022-2023 Calendar Year	Note: Timeline should have been referenced to the Academic (not Calendar) Year The ACUS Academic will hold informal meetings, during the 2024-25 Academic Calendar Year, with stakeholders including current students, alumni and professional engineering from the local industry.	N/A
3.	The department leadership team should prepare collegial teaching and space allocation policies to be approved by the department council that consider the variability in the teaching loads among faculty members and providing perspicuous guidelines for faculty members to access and utilize individual and shared lab spaces. (Weakness)	The teaching load is governed by the collective agreement and the available faculty complement. Individual faculty members are asked to submit their teaching preferences every year and the Department Chair tries to meet these preferences as much as possible. Still, the Department offers a number of service (ECOR) courses for all students in engineering, and these courses tend to have higher enrolment. Over the last two years, the Department has added more sections in most large-enrolment courses to reduce enrollment in each course and reduce workload on those instructors. It is also recognized that some courses in some programs have lower enrolment than the Department average due to the size of these programs. The Department has a considerable shortage in research space, with majority of space accessible to all faculty member based on the current need. The Department has a Laboratory Users and Space Committee (LUSC) with membership from all different research groups in the Department to provide recommendations and suggest policies related to lab use and space utilization. The LUSC will work	CEE LUSC Chair; CEE Department Chair 2022-2023 Calendar Year	Note: Timeline should have been referenced to the Academic (not Calendar) Year The limited availability of research space is a University-wide issue although it is more acute in Engineering. The LUSC will investigate this issue during the Fall 2024 semester committee meetings. The LUSC will provide recommendations on lab utilization and space allocation that may facilitate faculty members' access to and utilization of both individual and shared laboratory spaces.	N/A

	to assess actions, guidelines or policies that may support faculty members to access and utilize individual and shared lab spaces. Agreed to in principle			
4. The department continual improvement process (CIP) is based on the measurement of graduate attributes in a subset of courses. A bona fide CIP process should consider all courses rather than a subset. (Concern)	We appreciate the feedback. However, the GA and CI process is developed according to the guidelines set by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) and many elements in the process are applicable for all engineering departments. The process has just been scrutinized in two separate accreditation visits in 2019 and will be reviewed in another visit in 2022. We also note that implementing this recommendation will increase workload on all instructors, which is an opposite outcome to the recommendation in point 6. (Not Agreed to)	N/A	N/A	N/A
5. Two departmental committees are responsible for changes to the program and academic planning committee, and the CEE-GAC. As there are three different programs administered by the two committees, the department would benefit from assigning 'directors' especially to the two smaller programs (ASCE and ENVE) overlooking program amelioration efforts and student concerns. (Concern)	We appreciate the feedback. However, many of the courses are shared between multiple programs, and it will be impossible for example to separate decisions related to ACSE from CIVE. Therefore, the different programs are represented in the two main academic planning committees in the Department. (Not Agreed to)	N/A	N/A	N/A

6.	There are mixed experiences of faculty members regarding the distribution and reporting of graduate attributes using the GASSS system. Some faculty members find the process well organized, while others reported large number of graduate attributes in single classes and many measures that are not useful. (Concern)	We appreciate the feedback. We recognize that GASSS (the electronic system to collect GA data) is not the most friendly system. The Faculty's APC has long recognized this and has been trying to work with ITS to introduce bug fixes. The exercise of the GA mapping in all three programs has been completed few years ago with full consultation with the faculty at the time. Balancing the load of GA data collection in the different courses was one of the criteria considered. The faculty members are asked to submit comments on the process every year and the CEE-GAC reviews these comments for possible changes. It is also noted that APC did discuss GA mapping changes for a potential reduction of the number of indicators. However, a subset of the GAs is analyzed every year, and we wanted to keep the current mapping until we complete the full cycle. APC can revisit the list of indicators and the mapping to courses, in a future cycle.	CEE Faculty; CEE-GAC Chair; CEE Department Chair; Associate FED Dean — Policy and Planning 2024-2025 Calendar Year	Note: This has been an ongoing activity. The timeline should have been referenced to the Academic (not Calendar) Year. This is led by the Engineering Academic Planning Committee (APC). Discussions within the APC have taken place regarding potential changes to the GA mapping, particularly aiming for a reduction in the number of indicators. The APC remains open to revisiting the list of indicators and the mapping to courses in future cycles.	N/A
7.	There seems to be a slight disconnect between the central coop program and departmental or faculty level efforts to enhance coop students experience. (Concern)	Agreed to in principle We are not sure what is raised in this point. While the Department strives to enhance the student experience in general, co-op is managed centrally through the co-op office. The CEE ACUS-Student Engagement will work with the co-op office to develop a working plan to enhance students' co-op experience. Agreed to in principle	CEE ACUS-Student Engagement 2023-2024 Calendar Year	Note: Timeline should have been referenced to the Academic (not Calendar) Year The CEE has an existing culture of integrating undergraduate students within the research environment through CEE supported internships, University programs such as I-CUREUS and externally funded programs (e.g., NSERC USRA, MItacs). The ACUS Student Engagement has engaged with the CEE Co-Op Program Co-Ordinator. An information seminar will be held in the early Winter Term engage with the undergraduate students.	N/A
8.	Students extracurricular design teams would benefit from increased support. (Concern)	Students' extracurricular activities are currently very well supported financially and through faculty involvement and supervision. Student teams are supported for annual travel to compete in the Great North Concrete Toboggan Race (GNCTR), Association of Preservation Technologies (APT), Troitsky Bridge Competition, and CSCE National Capstone Project Competition. Additional teams have	Chair of CEE Student Experience Cmte; ACUS-Student Engagement; and Department Chair	Note: Timeline should have been referenced to the Academic (not Calendar) Year. CEE has an existing culture of supporting undergraduate student participate in extracurricular activities as discussed in the	N/A

	been formed for the Timber Fever competition and the Concrete Canoe competition. All teams were contacted in March for their space needs to ensure that they have adequate working space for the extracurricular activities in the new Engineering Design Center that will be operational in 2022-2023. CEE has a dedicated committee to work with students and student groups to review requests for support. A CEE faculty member was just awarded the Jim Simpson Award by the Carleton Student Engineering Society upon the recommendation of the concrete canoe team for his support of the team activities. The Student Experience Committee will approach the students' groups to collect and review requests for support. Agreed to in principle	2022-2023 Calendar Year	response. CEE will continue to support these experiences. The ACUS Student Engagement will engage with the CEE Student Experience Committee to understand the extent, needs and gaps of the current support system, and explore potential options as needed. This has been completed.	
9. All three programs revolve around "building preservation, structural engineering in heritage buildings and resilient infrastructure", students with other interests or opportunities need electives. (Concern)	A review of the CEE program has been conducted in the 2020-21 Calendar year by the Undergraduate Programs Committee. The subcommittee was tasked to review and develop possible options for enhancement to the program for offering a wider range of electives by integrating a Pathway Options within the CIVE program. The ACUS-Academic will work with the UPC to assess possible changes to the ACSE, CIVE and ENVE programs. The primary resource constraints are accreditation requirements, faculty complement, and classroom and lab space. Agreed to if additional resources permit	ACUS-Academic; Department Chair 2024-2025 Calendar Year	Note: Timeline should have been referenced to the Academic (not Calendar) Year Note: UPC is now Department Academic Planning Committee (DAPC) The basis for this conclusion is unclear. A review of the CIVE program was conducted during the 2020-21 academic year by the Undergraduate Programs Committee (currently DAPC). A subcommittee was assigned the task of evaluating and proposing potential enhancements to the program, with a focus on expanding the range of elective courses by integrating Pathway Options within the CIVE program. A series of program and calendar changes were implemented. For CIVE, several courses were moved from the program 4 th year to the 3 rd year. The objective was to provide greater exposure to a broader range of Civil disciplines that may improve awareness and guidance for the selection of Engineering Electives in the 4th year. The changes included adding CIVE 3407 (Municipal Engineering) CIVE 3210	There may be future calendar changes.

			(Geotechnical Engineering) and CIVE 3305 (Highway Engineering) to the 3rd year course requirements, The displaced courses, including CIVE 3209 (Building Science), CIVE 4400 (Construction and Project Management) and MATH 3705 (Mathematical Methods I) were offered as Engineering Electives. Considerable changes have also been implemented in ACSE in 2022-2023 to add more focus on conservation of heritage structures (new course ACSE 4101) and building performance (new course ACSE 3201) and distinguish it from the CIVE program (removed CIVE 3202) and Bachelor of Architecture Studies (removed ARCC 3202). Discussion is underway to revamp ENVE program. For all CEE programs, progression tree notes were revised to provide guidance on course selection.	
10. Students reported that learning outcomes are not universally used in courses. When used, they found them very helpful in structuring their learning. However some professors simply list them in the course outline but do not link them to the actual content. (Concern)	We acknowledge the importance of linking each course's learning outcomes to the course materials and the program's learning outcomes. Instructors will be reminded to link the learning outcomes of their courses to the materials covered. We recognize that the new Student Experience Questionnaire at Carleton will also help emphasize this point. Agreed to unconditionally	ACUS-Academic; Department Chair 2022-2023 Calendar Year	Note: Timeline should have been referenced to the Academic (not Calendar) Year Note: ACUS Student Engagement should have been referenced not ACUS Academic Since the 2023-24 Academic Calendar year, guidance on the minimum requirements for developing the course outline has been provided by the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and CEE ACUS Student Engagement. Course outline templates have also been distributed to faculty and contract instructors.	N/A This has been completed.

11. Environmental	We have recognized the side effects of having a large number of	ACUS-Academic;	Note: Timeline should have been referenced to the	Yes
engineering program	courses taken by environmental engineering students outside the	Department Chair	Academic (not Calendar) Year	
students are a bit lost	Department in the first two years. It has been recognized that this is			(2024-2025
when it comes to the	a significant issue potentially affecting the retention of the students.	2024-2025 Calendar Year	Through an assessment of the Environmental	anticipated)
focus of the program.	Starting 2019, ECOR 1055 has been introduced in first year for all		Engineering Program, by the ACUS Academic and	
Perhaps the	engineering students to help students recognize the focus of their		ACUS Student Engagement, CEAB Accreditation	
introduction of	program, the potential career paths, and the links between their		review, the issue appears to be related to the1st	
program learning	courses in early years and these career paths. ECOR 1055 also		year common course framework. The 1st year	
outcomes specific To	allows students in each program to meet each other on weekly		common courses are focused on fundamental	
the Carleton program	basis, which may not be possible in the other courses in the first		topics in the fields of chemistry, physics,	
would help the	year. We recognize that the pandemic conditions have derailed this		mathematics and engineering. These foundational	
retention of students in	latter objective.		courses provide the critical knowledge base needed	
that program. For	CEE routinely organizes career nights (mostly focused on		for success in any Engineering discipline. The	
example students	environmental engineering) where industry engineers talk to the		program pathways in Chemistry and Math directly	
asked for more contact	students on the potential career paths.		lead to providing the basis for directed	
with the ENVE industry	The Department will look into potential program changes to bring in		Environmental Engineering courses in 2 nd year and	
engineers to better	focus of the program at an earlier stage.		beyond. The ACUS Student Engagement will	
understand			develop a communication strategy to inform the	
opportunities where	Agreed to in principle		Environmental Engineering students to address	
ENVE engineers			these concerns.	
graduating from the			In addition, the ENVE Curriculum Review	
Carleton program fit			Committee is currently reviewing and revising ENVE	
into society. (Concern)			program. One of the main objectives of this	
			committee is to emphasize the program's focus	
			earlier in the curriculum. A few courses have been	
			identified as those that can be moved to earlier	
			semesters. Also, the content of multiple courses will	
			be revised and made up to date to help engaging	
			and the retention of students	
12. ENVE4104	As per the responses to Points 9 and 11, the Department will look	ACUS-Academic;	Note: Timeline should have been referenced to the	Depends on the
Environmental	into potential program changes to bring in focus of the program at	Department Chair	Academic (not Calendar) Year	outcome of the
Planning and Impact	an earlier stage.			program review
Assessment and ENVE		2024-2025 Calendar Year	The DAPC will investigate this issue in the 2024-	
4200 Climate Change	Agreed to in principle		2025 academic year.	
and Engineering are in				
the 4th year. Students,			In reference to the response to Point 11, the ENVE	
particularly ENVE			Curriculum Review Committee is exploring	
students, would			potential program changes to emphasize the	

benefit from these courses ahead of their 4th year capstone design experience. (Concern			program's focus at an earlier stage. Moving ENVE 4200 to an earlier semester and making it mandatory is one of the items that the committee is investigating.	
13. Civil students expressed concern that most electives are all in the first term which limits access due to timetabling. (Concern)	See response to Point 9. Agreed to if additional resources permit	ACUS-Academic; Department Chair 2024-2025 Calendar Year	Note: Timeline should have been referenced to the Academic (not Calendar) Year See response to point 9 for the CIVE program changes. This provides a flexible option for selecting Engineering Electives in both the Fall and Winter semesters for the 4 th year.	N/A This has been completed.
14. Large class sizes and large teaching loads for new faculty members is a hindrance to their research aspirations in their early career. In particular, new faculty members have to teach 3 undergraduate courses plus 1 graduate course. Similarly, senior faculty members need to teach 2 undergraduate course plus 1 graduate course in addition to as high as 4 capstone design groups. This heavy teaching load has precipitated in students reporting a delayed response from their instructors to	We appreciate the feedback. We note that the teaching load for new and senior faculty members is set by CUASA's collective agreement. The Department tries to help new faculty members whose teaching load in the first year is one-half reduced normal teaching load (i.e., 1.0 credit teaching load). With a number of new hires, the Department has recently split most large enrolment classes to 2 sections and increased the number of sections in other service ECOR courses. It is hoped that more faculty hiring in the future will allow further reduction in class size. Typically, faculty members supervise only 2 capstone projects (occasionally 3). Supervision of capstone projects requires PEng status as per the requirements of the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB). However, the Department is introducing in 2022-2023 cosupervision arrangements to allow new faculty members (without PEng status) to co-supervise capstone projects. Agreed to in principle	Department Chair Ongoing	Since the 2020-21 academic year, the allocation of student project groups to faculty supervisors, with P.Eng. status, has not exceeded three groups and is typically 2 groups assigned. Since the 2022-23 academic year, the cosupervision option has been successful in providing supervisory support to reduce workload, enhancing the engineering experience for student mentorship and guidance, and supporting the students with focused technical issues (e.g., use of specialized software, lab equipment).	N/A

their various course inquiries. (Concern)				
15. Comment from student "they leave it to the TA and then the TA doesn't want to do anything" (TA oversight?). This is again a reflection of the high enrolment.	It is not exactly clear what this comment is related to. It may be one complaint from one student related to a specific course, but this is definitely not an acceptable mode of delivery in the Department. (Not agreed to)	Department Chair 2022-2023	The duties of the course instructor and TA were relayed to all faculty members	N/A This has been completed
16. 6 students per capstone group may be too many students to effectively give them all the design experience intended. This is again a reflection of the high enrolment. (Concern)	Target group size in the capstone project is 4-6 students. The capstone project is an integration, over the student's academic tenure through the first 3 years of the program of the cumulative knowledge base, and experience where the skills, attributes and capabilities are utilized and demonstrated. Large design groups enhance the capstone experience through diversity, leadership and team building. The experience can be adequately managed to reflect realities within the practicing profession where project teams are typically comprised of large, multidisciplinary groups (Not agreed to)	N/A	N/A	N/A
17. The faculty is rapidly expanding the number of faculty members. This is an opportunity to decrease the class sizes enhancing the quality of delivery of the three programs. (Opportunity)	See response to Point 14. Agreed to unconditionally	Department Chair Already ongoing	As per the progress update in point 14	N/A

in research capabilities within the faculty, there is an opportunity to engage undergraduate students in the recent research advancements in the fields of research of the different researchers. The only mechanism available is through coop opportunities for the very top students. However, there needs to be other mechanisms allowing students at all academic levels to volunteer and perhaps actively participate in the faculty's research activities.	We appreciate the feedback but coop is not the only way to involve students in faculty research. There are many opportunities available to integrate undergraduate students within the research experience including CEE Internships for first year students, Carleton University Research Experience for Undergraduate Students (I-CUREUS), and NSERC USRAS. (Not agreed to)	N/A	See the response to point 7.	N/A
(Opportunity) 19. A formal strategy to adopt/initiate teaching best practices gained from the experience induced by the recent remote delivery may provide an improvement in student learning. (Opportunity)	The Engineering Academic Planning Committee (APC) has discussed the potential of alternative course delivery modes in engineering courses. With the constraints of accreditation requirements, APC is working on a plan to explore the opportunities and challenges with remote course delivery and the potential application in delivering engineering courses. Agreed to unconditionally	APC 2023-2024 Calendar Year	Note: Timeline should have been referenced to the Academic (not Calendar) Year This is led by the Engineering Academic Planning Committee (APC).	No

20. Expand the focus of the	The CEE programs have alumni spread all over Canada and the	CEE Faculty and	The communications for CEE and FED have been	N/A
programs/faculty past	world. We appreciate the comment and will note it in future	Department Chair	updated and provide context on the engagement	
"Ottawa", even just in	communications.		with and research impact on the local, national and	
the strategic		Immediately	international communities.	
documents. The	Agreed to unconditionally			
impression that one			CEE now has an administrator with primary	
gets from reading the			responsibility for communication and digital media	
Faculty and University			including timely communication through website, X	
documentation is a			(formerly twitter), and LinkedIn.	
focus on service to				
Ottawa. (Opportunity)				
21. Students indicated no	We appreciate the feedback. The ACUS-Academic and UPC will note	ACUS-Academic;	Note: Timeline should have been referenced to the	N/A
emphasis on	the feedback in the ongoing exercise to review the 3 undergraduate	Department Chair	Academic (not Calendar) Year	
entrepreneurship;	programs in CEE.	2024-2025 Calendar Year		
focus appears to be on	It is worth noting that CEE students are regular participants in the		Note: UPC is now Department Academic Planning	
getting a job (often a	PEO Ottawa Chapter's Annual Innovation Challenge, which focuses		Committee (DAPC)	
government job).	entirely on innovation and entrepreneurship.			
There appears to be an			Through dialogue with the undergraduate student	
opportunity to	Agreed to in principle		cohorts, the ACUS Student Engagement will better	
introduce leadership			understand their perspective on entrepreneurship	
and entrepreneurship			and assess the level of interest. This will assess the	
learning into the			need and may provide guidance on the need and	
students' educational			scope of potential future actions.	
experience.				
(Opportunity)			Alongside other current undergraduate courses,	
			which include group projects or laboratory	
			activities, the capstone project (Course 4918) offers	
			significant opportunities to develop leadership and	
			communication skills. Additionally, as mentioned in	
			response to point 8, numerous extracurricular	
			activities are available for students to cultivate	
			leadership attributes.	