



Outcomes of the Internal Academic Review For the Faculty of Law

*Response submitted by the
Dean of the Faculty of Law*

Research Environment

Under the leadership of the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies and Research), the research environment at the Faculty of Law continues to flourish.

In spring 2008, the Faculty launched a new section of its website dedicated to research. The website includes extensive information about grant opportunities and highlights faculty research achievements and publications. In June 2008, the Faculty launched its new Ph.D. program, which welcomed its first student in September 2008. Four additional students will join the program in September 2009.

In the fall of 2008, the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies and Research) began meeting with faculty members to develop a Strategic Plan for Research that will help to clarify what kinds of research and research performance we aim to foster at Queen's Law. A draft of the plan, which clearly articulates goals, initiatives and performance measures for 2010-2015, has been distributed to the faculty for comment. It will also be presented for discussion at the faculty retreat in August 2009. We expect that the Strategic Plan will be completed in fall 2009. An assessment of the relationship between the LL.M. and the Ph.D. program is ongoing.

First-Year Curriculum

A review of the first-year curriculum is underway. The process was initiated by the Associate Dean (Academic) at the faculty retreat in August 2008. Since that time the Associate Dean (Academic) has requested comments from members of faculty as well as staff involved in the first-year program and conducted two roundtables with members of faculty and staff. In addition, the Law Students' Society held a Town Hall Meeting with interested students. Faculty, staff and student participation in the process has provided the opportunity to define more precisely concerns regarding the current first-year program. These concerns and potential solutions will be presented to the faculty and discussed at the faculty retreat in August 2009.

If it is determined that changes to the curriculum should be made, a plan will be put in place to decide upon and implement the changes by the 2011-12 academic year at the latest.

Support Services

In the spring of 2008, the Faculty contacted Queen's IT Services and arranged for a review of the IT needs and capabilities of the Faculty. The review, conducted by Jim Lesslie, Manager of Departmental Development Information Technology Services, involved meetings with students, staff and faculty. A report was completed in July 2008 which includes recommendations about staffing and IT support, the Faculty website, the use of listservs, teaching and learning support, and classroom facilities. Several of the recommendations have already been implemented, including:

- § A seminar classroom was refitted with new IT / AV capabilities in August 2008, and minor upgrades to other classroom are ongoing. Planning is also underway for the refurbishment and upgrading of the four basement classrooms of Macdonald in summer 2010.
- § The faculty website was updated in spring 2009 and migrated to a new dynamic design and presentation. The content has been redrafted and reformatted to highlight our strengths, including faculty news, and our graduate and international programs.
- § Additional IT staffing resources have been added by broadening a faculty support position to include support to the Manager of IT / AV services. The faculty continues to assess its need for additional staff resources in

preparation for the academic year ahead. The retreats held to-date have been well received and productive.

The faculty also intends to increase the frequency and scope of our regular staff meetings, and continues the current practice of hosting an informal faculty roundtable with an open agenda followed by dinner at least once per term.

Recognizing that with time constraints and scheduling challenges it can be difficult to meet individually with all faculty members on a regular basis, the Dean has been meeting regularly with groups of three to four faculty members, with an open agenda to discuss any issues at the law school. These meetings have been successful and will be continued in the coming years.

We continue to develop a more complete orientation process for new faculty and staff members and to expand our Faculty Handbook. Several new appointments have been made in the past few years, and the new faculty and staff members will be consulted about improvements that can be made to our orientation process.

Attachment:
Review Team Report

Report of the Internal Academic Review Team
Faculty of Law
March 2008

Executive Summary

The Internal Academic Review Team for the Faculty of Law comprised the following members:

Dr. Sandra den Otter, History
Dr. Lewis Johnson, Business (Chair)
Dr. Margaret Moore, Political Studies
Dr. Laura Murray, English
Mr. Keith Rogers, Business Graduate Student
Mr. Trevor Smith, Business Undergraduate Student
Ms Lisa Woodcock, Staff, Advancement

The External Consultant was Dr. Carl Stychin of the University of Reading. (A second external consultant had to cancel at the last moment.)

Our report focuses on the “quality and suitability of academic endeavours”. We are in general impressed with the Faculty’s direction and leadership, but do recommend that:

the Faculty collegially develop and utilize a dynamic system of communication and consultation.

the Faculty collegially develop a clearer sense of the kinds of research and research performance it wishes to encourage and support, along with appropriate performance measures.

the Faculty ensure that adequate resources and broad support are provided to the clinical programs.

the Faculty dedicate more resources to IT services.

the first year curriculum be reviewed to ensure consistent learning objectives and outcomes, expectations, and required elements, while also preserving pro

Introduction

The Faculty is led in this mission by its Dean. There is no question that he has added a dynamic leadership to the Faculty, and that he is very active in working with alumni and others to raise the profile of the Faculty and to raise money. To assist him in his internal management of the Faculty, he has set up a committee of four associate and assistant deans, each with specific responsibilities. We agree with the Consultant that this

In a similar vein, individuals at the Faculty of Law Library expressed concerns with serving “two masters” (the University Library system and the Faculty of Law), and would like to see a more devolved lib

interests be sufficiently similar that dialogue and collaboration can occur among students. We endorse the identification of clusters of research strength as an effective way to recruit PhD students, to capitalize on limited resources, and to ensure a reputation for excellence; possibly in the newly-proposed fields “Legal Issues Relating to Aboriginal Peoples” and “Comparative Law and Legal Traditions” and the reconfigured

