

May 27, 2016

Senate Standing Committee on Program Review Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Institutional Response: Computer-Aided Drafting and Design (CADD) Technologies

As Dean of the Faculty of Trades and Technology, and on behalf of the Provost and Vice-President Academic, Dr. Salvador Ferreras, I would like to congratulate the faculty and staff of the CADD department for their efforts and commitment in undertaking this comprehensive program review and for their readiness to make a strong and positive contribution in the next steps they have identified in the Program Review Action Plan.

We would also like to acknowledge the leadership of Daryl Massey, Chair of the department, and thank him for very effectively leading the team in this endeavor.

The recommendations and responses outlined in the Program Review Action Plan are extensive and will need the combined support of the program faculty and staff, Dean's Office, and institution to realize them. The majority of the issues identified, and the recommendations and responses that arise from them, are consistent with KPU's mandate as well as the Faculty of Trades and Technology's direction and vision, and therefore are supported.

The need to establish and align the program's vision and mission with KPU's Vision 2018 and Academic Plan, the Faculty of Trades and Technology's growth in Advanced Manufacturing and Clean Technology, and best practices in flexible, quality pedagogy is a high priority. KPU's CADD program enjoys a strong and positive reputation on account of its rigorous curriculum and teaching standards. In order to maintain up-to-date currency and to adopt leading best practices, it is essential that proposed program and curricular changes (some already underway) respond to current industry needs and that the program pursue the continued professional development of its faculty. As identified in the action plan, this will involve engaging subject matter experts in teaching, focused professional development, and implementing curricular revisions, including the incorporation of the learning outcomes and content areas identified. The program is in a good position to move forward with this; in fact the faculty have already begun to incorporate many of the recommendations within the current curricular framework.

The department is indicating a will and desire to grow programmatically. This is supported by the institution. Progress is evident through ongoing relationship and programmatic development that supports student mobility between KPU and other Universities, Institutes and Colleges. Consideration of curricular changes or additions may be required to create access points for First Nations and international students.

The department is committed to supporting students in diploma and degree pathways to ensure a seamless pathway to professional technician and technologist designations.

Student participation in industry through various means, such as work practicum, work experience, mentorship with alumni is encouraged. Increasing integration of technology is also seen as a valuable area of focus. This may include integration of technology found in architectural, drafting, and related engineering firms such as 3D printers and CNC routers.

Professional development is a key focus in supporting industry and student needs. It has been suggested that improved access for potential clients and students would be facilitated by building the capacity to have the program 'mobile'; able to work out of any campus or business location without significant reduction in quality of delivery. This may be supported through student-owned laptops, flexible delivery times, use of remote access technology, and moving the main operations closer to Skytrain and main bus services.

The CADD program reduced capacity from 24 to 20 students some time ago, struggles with low student enrolment particularly in the summer semester while it remains difficult to fill spring courses. Discussion with the Provost, Dean, KFA, Registrar's office, and faculty members is ongoing with regards to identifying student access to courses and programs. Both 3 Civic Plaza and the Richmond campus have been identified by the department as locations where they may have greater access to students. Access to Skytrain and bus service is critical. The Richmond campus is close to the School of Design and the Faculty of Science and Horticulture - Applied Physics. These are identified by the faculty as being ideal in supporting cross faculty educational opportunities, which are encouraged by the institute.

Given that there will be no increase in budget allocated to the CADD program, further requests for staffing or faculty/chair release, technology, resources, and professional development, will have to be considered within the existing budget structure; any potential increases in one area would need to be from the reallocation of funds from another area of the CADD budget. In light of this, the Dean's Office will support the investigation of other funding opportunities, including funding available through the

Office of Research & Scholarship, 0.6% Faculty PD Funding, and other alternatives such as non-base funded Continuing and Professional Studies. Over time, as the latter initiative develops across the Faculty, the department may be able to apply to the Dean's office for initiative funding.

The Dean's Office is fully committed to making strong and positive connections throughout the university to ensure that systems for students and faculty are effective and access to support is readily available. I will assist the Associate Dean and department Chair in making further connections with key parties in order to facilitate smoother operations. Productive relationships with our industry partners, program PAC's, and communities are also a high priority.

In closing, we would like to congratulate the faculty and staff for this positive team effort. The group has already undertaken a number of changes to address the goals of the action plan. I look forward to working closely with them as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Brian Haugen
Dean, Faculty of Trades and Technology

Cc: Dr. Sal Ferreras, Provost and Vice President Academic
Daryl Massey, Chair, CADD Technologies
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