



June 2, 2017

Senate Standing Committee on Program Review

Institutional Response: Engineering Certificate Program

I would like to extend congratulations to Dr. Michael Poon (Physics Department Chair and Engineering Program Coordinator) and the team from the Physics Department for compiling a high quality, comprehensive review of a long-standing, highly successful program which has not been previously internally reviewed.

Dr. Poon outlines two (2) overarching Quality Assurance Goals and five (5) main Objectives addressing recommendations outlined in the Self-Study and found in the External Review Team Report. In consultation with Dr. Salvador Ferreras, Provost and Vice-President Academic, I approve of the goals and steps outlined to achieve said goals. This program epitomizes both Vision 2018 and the Academic Plan 2018 and the successful achievement of these goals will ensure that the program evolves to continue to fit the needs of students and the industry.

Goal 1: Ensure Engineering Certificate graduates are prepared for further engineering studies. The QA report outlines two major objectives addressing this goal: 1. adapting curriculum to maintain program currency, and 2. improving support for student learning. Many of the actions pertaining to these objectives are already underway including changes to curriculum, software assessment and plans to create a new technical writing course. Existing course outlines will be revised and content adapted as required to account for changing core engineering competencies. Several courses making up the Engineering Certificate are taught by instructors from other FSH Departments and Faculties hence removing any control over who is chosen to teach Engineering students. This can, and periodically has, resulted in non-ideal selections of instructors. To address this issue, the plan is to hold periodic discussion groups to better address any shortfalls. The many actions listed to facilitate Goal 1 are appropriate, relevant and receive my full support. There are many ‘quick wins’ that can be achieved in a short time frame.

Goal 2: Student support and enhanced opportunities. The QA report outlines three major objectives addressing this goal: 1. increase admission access, 2. provide more exit opportunities, and 3. internal (KPU) degree completion opportunities. **Objective 1** will require working closely with support units such as the FSO and OREG, particularly concerning recruitment and establishing an open enrolment stream. These discussions are underway but it will take several admissions cycles to start to see the results. **Objective 2** is already in process and an agreement for transfer to UVic has already been signed. Reaching out to SFU and BCIT will take place in subsequent years as such agreements will require more substantive curricular changes to take place. **Objective 3** is more of a long term goal and will require substantial resource commitments (budget, space, capital, personnel) from KPU. Several years ago a draft Full Program Proposal



(including IAP report) for a B. Sc. in Industrial Engineering was produced with a keen vision to serve the needs of the South Fraser industrial community. Such an endeavor is very resource rich and would require that all instructors of APSI or other Engineering courses have P. Eng or Eng. L. professional status. We certainly will encourage existing faculty to pursue this but will require a boost to the Physics Department operating budget to cover fees. The original draft proposal can be the starting point of a revised program proposal. Regardless, I support the establishment of an Engineering Program Advisory Committee which will meet yearly and would be tasked with updating the degree program proposal if there is an appetite from KPU Senior Admin to pursue this initiative. The development of a full Engineering degree is a future project and will only be pursued if support is present.

In summary, I am fully supportive of the goals and timelines outlined by Dr. Poon and pleased to see that many are already well on their way to fruition. In addition, I congratulate Dr. Poon for an exemplary program review and look forward to seeing the above goals implemented.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Elizabeth Worobec', written in a cursive style.

Elizabeth (Betty) Worobec, Ph.D.
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