

Date submitted to SSCPR: September 25, 2024

Date Self-Study Report approved by SSCPR: June 21, 2023

Date of External Review: February 7, 2024

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM STRENGTHS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

*The geography program undeniably stands as a hidden gem within Kwantlen Polytechnic University's academic offerings. . .
With a few recommended modifications, the program has a bright future and is well-positioned to continue to serve its students effectively.*

External Review Report, February 7, 2024, p. 17.

The KPU Department of Geography and the Environment has welcomed the opportunity afforded by program review to take stock of its current standing and future potential. As outlined in the *Self-Study Report ('SSR')* and in the *External Review Report ('ERR')*, this examination has resulted in a very positive assessment of faculty members' care for students, as well as their expertise and teaching quality. The *SSR* and *ERR* have affirmed the relevance of the skills and subject knowledge conveyed in the curricula of the department's three degree programs, and the importance of existing supports and resources—teaching spaces, laboratory materials, lab and administrative assistance, Faculty of Arts Dean's Office assistance and leadership, and KPU's library, academic advising, and counselling services—for successful program delivery.

However, as noted by the authors of the *ERR*, the department's 'gem' like qualities—so to speak—are all too hidden: obscured by a lack of public awareness about the department's offerings despite their significance for comprehending and responding to a host of pressing socio-economic, political, and environmental challenges. This is a discipline-wide problem for Geography, with our department's situation exacerbated by insufficient marketing and a lack of formal connections with external communities. Addressing these two shortcomings and making curricular changes to expand coverage of the natural environment and sustainability issues, enhance skills development, increase program flexibility, and provide more clarity about career paths, will put the department on much stronger footing to deal with its key challenge: comparatively low student enrolments in its upper-level courses and degree programs.

This *Quality Assurance Plan (QAP)* is designed to build on the department's strengths, address its weaknesses, enhance its ability to weather ongoing challenges, and position it well to capitalize on new opportunities. Our *QAP* is organized around five main goals, namely to:

- Promote awareness of our degree programs to attract students and increase enrolments in our course and program offerings.
- Revise our current degree programs to enhance their relevance and to improve students' timely and successful completion of program requirements.
- Increase our engagement with communities inside and outside KPU to enrich the quality, relevance, and visibility of our programs.



Geography Quality Assurance Plan

- Enhance our teaching and course delivery methods to reinforce student engagement, success, and satisfaction with our department and its degree programs.
- Strengthen infrastructure, staffing, and service provisions to reinforce student engagement, success, and satisfaction with our department and its degree programs.

Specific actions to achieve these goals are informed by the recommendations in the *SSR* and the *ERR*. The content, prioritization, and sequencing of these actions for the five-year period addressed by the plan have been developed in recognition of departmental capacities, and organized according to the following timeline:

- Year 1 (Nov. 2024 to Nov. 2025) Actions to address critical issues and establish a foundation for departmental growth
- Year 2 (Nov. 2025 to Nov. 2026)
Year 3 (Nov. 2026 to Nov. 2027) Actions to consolidate gains and enhance departmental capacities
- Year 4 (Nov. 2027 to Nov. 2028)
Year 5 (Nov. 2028 to Nov. 2029) Actions to extend gains and investigate opportunities for future development

RECOMMENDATIONS THE QUALITY ASSURANCE PLAN DOES NOT ADDRESS

The Recommendations from the Self-Study Report and External Review Report that this Plan does not address as provided below, with a brief rationale for why these Recommendations cannot be addressed.

Recommendations	Indicate Self-Study Report (SSR) or External Review Report (ERR) and page number	Rationale for Not Addressing
Consult with current, regular faculty members working less than full-time (either due to current contract status or secondment to the EPT program) to gauge their interest and willingness to increase their workload if necessary to meet current and/or future program needs.	SSR, Recommendation RD9, p. 84.	The department addressed this recommendation in Fall 2023 through consultations with its faculty members. Regular faculty members are prepared to meet current and anticipated future department needs.
Survey faculty teaching competencies and assignments and consider ways of increasing flexibility to reduce vulnerability to enrolment challenges in physical geography and other courses.	SSR, Recommendation RD10, p. 84.	The department has addressed this recommendation through consultations with its faculty members in Fall 2023 and with modified teaching assignments (e.g. having physical geography faculty teach sections of GEOG 1101 <i>Human Geography</i>) since then.
Emphasize the department's positive, and comparably high, net revenues and petition administrators to utilize these resources for departmental operations that support its educational and economic sustainability.	SSR, Recommendation RD22, p. 84.	Over the past eight years the department has been successful in attracting international students enrolled at KPU, with these enrolments having significantly contributed to the department's high net revenues. However, these international student enrolments and revenues are likely to be substantially reduced for the foreseeable future due to government policies beyond the department's and university's control.
Encourage the Faculty of Arts to investigate ways to reduce the turnover of Departmental Administrative Assistants (DAAs) and promote increased continuity of support to our department and others.	SSR, Recommendation RSF7, p. 87.	The <i>Self-Study Report</i> has communicated to Faculty of Arts administrators the department's concerns with Departmental Administrative Assistant (DAA) turnover. Beyond this, the department has no control over Faculty of Arts employment policies for, or the positional stability of, DAAs.
Integrate field study in Northern BC communities with the assistance of KPU's International and Rural Development departments.	ERR, p. 8.	While the department will be exploring ways to enhance experiential learning in its degree programs, these initiatives will focus on the South Fraser region of metropolitan Vancouver that is directly served by KPU and which is most geographically accessible to students and faculty.

Recommendations	Indicate Self-Study Report (SSR) or External Review Report (ERR) and page number	Rationale for Not Addressing
Build AI skills into teaching as much as possible moving forward.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 14.	There is no departmental consensus that this (vs. teaching methods fostering critical and creative thinking without the use of AI) is the most appropriate pedagogical approach to the use of AI technology in undergraduate education and training.
Define conditions of 'hardship' and permit students to substitute other KPU courses for GEOG ones when conditions are met.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 14.	The department already practices this with students on a case-by-case basis.
Inform students that they can attend other institutions to complete cancelled classes if needed.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 14.	The department believes that reducing the frequency of class cancellations and identifying alternative course options at KPU (in the event of a class cancellation) are preferable to directing students to enrol at other institutions.
Consider reaching out to other Lower Mainland geography programs to coordinate course offerings or at least direct students in need of a program course to consider taking it at another institution.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 14.	While the department will be pursuing a systematic outreach and marketing campaign with BC's two-year colleges (including possible development of block transfer agreements to facilitate transfer into our programs; see <i>SSR</i> Recommendation RD19, and Actions 1I and 1J, for Goal 1), we believe that directing students to take program courses at other institutions is likely to have a negative effect on our enrolments.
Consider offering summer courses.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 14.	The department already offers a sizeable number of summer courses.

QUALITY ASSURANCE FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

The Quality Assurance **Goals** for improving or maintaining program quality over the next five years are:

MONTH/YEAR WHEN THE FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN BEGINS: 11/24

GOAL 1: Promote awareness of our degree programs to attract students and increase enrolments in our course and program offerings.

Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses	Indicate Report & Page Number
a) Consider developing a common presentation/set of materials highlighting to students the relevance, for employability and careers in a variety of fields, of the PLOs and essential skills for all KPU Geography programs.	SSR, Recommendation RD3, p. 84.
b) Consider developing a common presentation/set of materials that explains to students the different KPU Geography programs and their laddering.	SSR, Recommendation RD12, p. 85.
c) Retain and enhance, including additional promotion and coordination with KPU International, current student outreach initiatives.	SSR, Recommendation RD15, p. 85.
d) Explore ways to further emphasize the term ‘environment,’ and environmentally focused content, in departmental branding and outreach events.	SSR, Recommendation RD16, p. 85.
e) Develop a yearly schedule/plan to prioritize and coordinate department outreach activities.	SSR, Recommendation RD17, p. 85.
f) Explore the development of a regular, systematic outreach and promotion campaign with metro Vancouver secondary school Social Studies/Geography students and teachers.	SSR, Recommendation RD18, p. 85.
g) Explore the development of a regular, systematic outreach and promotion campaign with two-year colleges in British Columbia which offer comparable first- and second-year Geography courses; this may include development of block transfer agreements to facilitate transfer into our BA Minor in Geography and BA Major in Applied Geography programs.	SSR, Recommendation RD19, p. 85.
h) Retain the AA in Geography program and enhance its promotion, and that of the department’s BA Minor and BA Major in Applied Geography degrees, to international students in collaboration with KPU International.	SSR, Recommendation RD23, p. 85.
i) Develop strategic interventions to provide clearer guidance and support to students in understanding career pathways associated with their degree/course curriculum.	ERR, p. 5, p. 9.
j) Ensure that 1102 is re-listed as fulfilling a BA degree science course requirement to encourage higher enrolments and attract GEOG BA Majors.	ERR, p. 7.
k) Identify 5-6 clear and tangible potential career streams in Geography, each containing one or more of the 25+ potential occupations identified in the <i>Self-Study Report</i> ; develop a graphics-oriented marketing approach and materials to highlight these; communicate to students the courses/combinations of courses most relevant for each career stream.	ERR, p. 11.

Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses	Indicate Report & Page Number
l) Faculty and advisors should familiarize themselves with the specific requirements for professional designations (e.g. professional geoscientist—P. Geo.) and identify pathways (at KPU and/or elsewhere) for students to satisfy these requirements.	ERR, p. 11.
m) Increase outreach to high school students, via a marketing/recruitment program that includes i) identifying schools most likely to provide KPU students, ii) leveraging existing KPU connections (i.e. KPU GEOG alumni who teach), and iii) building high-school outreach into course curricula (e.g. having current students present on a Geography concept at a high school).	ERR, p. 12.

Actions(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
1A) Develop an annual schedule/plan to prioritize and coordinate departmental outreach/marketing activities.	John Martin John Rose	11/24	12/24	Addresses recommendations c and e. Action 1A describes the first cycle of an ongoing operational exercise.
1B) Petition the Deans and Faculty Councils of the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science to re-list GEOG 1102 <i>Physical Geography</i> as a qualifying Science credit course in the Bachelor of Arts Degree Framework and the Associate of Science Degree Framework.	John Martin	11/24	03/25	Addresses recommendation j.
1C) Develop a systematic KPU Geography and the Environment outreach/marketing plan focused on high school students in the South Fraser region of metropolitan Vancouver.	John Rose John Martin Victoria Tubrett	11/24	06/25	Addresses recommendations f and m. Also entails addressing recommendations a, b, c, d, i, k, and l.
1D) Develop a systematic outreach/marketing plan specifically focused on students enrolled in KPU Geography and the Environment courses and programs.	John Martin Dola Pradhan David Sadoway	11/24	06/25	Addresses recommendations a, b, c, d, h, i, k, and l.
1E) Develop a systematic KPU Geography and the Environment outreach/marketing plan focused on KPU students not currently enrolled in KPU Geography and the Environment courses and programs.	John Martin John Rose	11/24	06/25	Addresses recommendations a, b, c, d, h, i, k, and l.

Actions(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
	David Sadoway			
1F) Implement the KPU Geography and the Environment outreach/marketing plan (Action 1C) focused on high school students in the South Fraser region of metropolitan Vancouver.	John Rose John Martin Victoria Tubrett	06/25	03/26	Addresses recommendations f and m. Also entails addressing recommendations a, b, c, d, i, k, and l. Action 1F describes the first cycle of an ongoing campaign.
1G) Implement the KPU Geography and the Environment outreach/marketing plan (Action 1D) focused on students enrolled in KPU Geography and the Environment courses and programs.	John Martin Dola Pradhan David Sadoway	06/25	03/26	Addresses recommendations a, b, c, d, h, i, k, and l. Action 1G describes the first cycle of an ongoing campaign.
1H) Implement the KPU Geography and the Environment outreach/marketing plan (Action 1E) focused on KPU students not currently enrolled in KPU Geography and the Environment courses and programs.	John Martin John Rose David Sadoway	06/25	03/26	Addresses recommendations a, b, c, d, h, i, k, and l. Action 1H describes the first cycle of an ongoing campaign.
1I) Develop a systematic KPU Geography and the Environment outreach/marketing plan (including the potential establishment of block transfer agreements) focused on Geography/Environmental Studies departments in two-year colleges in British Columbia.	Parthi Krishnan John Rose	09/26	03/27	Addresses recommendation g. Also entails addressing recommendations a, b, c, d, i, k, and l. Action 1I is timed to begin with the planned implementation of revised degree programs (Action 2F, Goal 2).
1J) Implement the KPU Geography and the Environment outreach/marketing plan (action 1I) focused on Geography/Environmental Studies departments in two-year colleges in British Columbia.	Parthi Krishnan John Rose	03/27	11/27	Addresses recommendation g.

Actions(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
				Also entails addressing recommendations a, b, c, d, i, k, and l. Action 1J describes the first cycle of an ongoing campaign.

Resource Requirements (if applicable)
Resources required to achieve this Goal: None.
When resources will be required: Not applicable.
Faculty and/or Institutional support required: Action 1A: None. Action 1B: Approval from the Deans/Faculty Councils of the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science (plus subsequent approval by Senate) to restore Science credit status for GEOG 1102 Physical Geography. Actions 1C – 1E: Meeting time and input/expertise from the Faculty of Arts Dean’s Office, KPU International, Academic Advising, and Marketing Services, as applicable, to support departmental development of outreach/marketing plans. Actions 1F – 1J: None.

GOAL 2: Revise our current degree programs to enhance their relevance and to improve students’ timely and successful completion of program requirements.

Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses	Indicate Report & Page Number
a) Establish a Program Advisory Committee (PAC) to reinforce program relevance.	SSR, Recommendation C1, p. 83.
b) Retain, unless otherwise indicated, the existing PLOs of each Geography program.	SSR, Recommendation C2, p. 83.
c) Retain, unless otherwise indicated, the existing CLOs and course mix of each Geography program.	SSR, Recommendation C3, p. 83.
d) Consider, for GEOG 3130 Society and Urban Space and GEOG 3220 Urban Planning and Politics, adding GEOG 2250 The City as a substitute, or alternate, prerequisite to GEOG 1101 Human Geography.	SSR, Recommendation C4, p. 83.
e) Investigate adding GEOG 2380 Qualitative Methods to the program requirements to the AA in Geography and BA Minor in Geography programs, as a curricular design approach to enhancing students’ oral skills, writing skills, and reading skills.	SSR, Recommendation C5, p. 83.

Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses	Indicate Report & Page Number
f) Investigate adding GEOG 2390 Quantitative Methods to the program requirements in the AA in Geography, and this course plus GEOG 2400 Introduction to GIS to the BA Minor in Geography requirements, as a curricular design approach to enhancing students quantitative, visual/cartographic, and technical skills.	SSR, Recommendation C6, p. 83.
g) Investigate adding a new, introductory cartographic skills course to the program requirements of all degrees, as a curricular design approach to enhancing skills in this area and alleviating pressure on GEOG 2400 Introduction to GIS.	SSR, Recommendation C7, p. 83.
h) Consider changes to the first- and second-year curricula of the AA in Geography, BA Minor in Geography, and BA Major in Applied Geography to better align these course requirements and facilitate student transfer across programs.	SSR, Recommendation C8, p. 83.
i) Explore the creation of a new PLO, explicitly addressing Indigeneity, for each Geography program; determine any needed changes to CLOs to support this PLO.	SSR, Recommendation C9, p. 83.
j) Explore the creation of a new PLO, explicitly addressing fieldwork, for each Geography program; determine any needed changes to the course mix, and to CLOs, to support this PLO.	SSR, Recommendation C10, p. 83.
k) Explore the creation of a new PLO, explicitly addressing work-integrated/service learning, for each Geography program; determine any needed changes to the course mix, and to CLOs, to support this PLO.	SSR, Recommendation C11, p. 83.
l) Assess the status of the regional geography PLO from each degree program; should a decision be made to eliminate this PLO, determine any needed changes to program requirements/course mix in connection with this.	SSR, Recommendation C12, p. 83.
m) Explore revisions to the PLOs, and program structure, of the BA Major in Applied Geography program to increase flexibility and provide additional physical/environmental geography course options; consider changes to existing physical geography courses that would support their inclusion in this BA Major program and assess needs for new course additions. Evaluate what consequent changes would need to be made to the AA in Geography and BA Minor in Geography to ensure program alignment.	SSR, Recommendation C13, p. 84.
n) Consider developing an undergraduate honours thesis program within the BA Minor in Geography and/or BA Major in Applied Geography program.	SSR, Recommendation RD 6, p. 84.
o) Consider how to address variations in the 'seats offered' denominator when calculating, comparing, and making decisions based on course fill rates.	SSR, Recommendation RD14, p. 85.
p) Explore and assess options to revise the format and delivery of GEOG 1102 <i>Physical Geography</i> to increase student demand for the course.	SSR, Recommendation RD21, p. 85.
q) Retain the AA in Geography program and enhance its promotion, and that of the department's BA Minor and BA Major in Applied Geography degrees, to international students in collaboration with KPU International.	SSR, Recommendation RD23, p. 85.
r) Enhance instruction in foundational and 'soft' skills (written and oral communication, time management, teamwork) in lower-level years.	ERR, p. 5, p. 9, p. 11, p. 14.
s) Refine curriculum by shifting technical courses to the upper-level years for a more balanced educational experience.	ERR, p. 5.

Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses	Indicate Report & Page Number
t) Enhance experiential learning opportunities, including field courses and practicums.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 5, p. 14.
u) Offer an introductory cartography course and move the introductory GIS course (GEOG 2400 Introduction to GIS) to the upper level.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 5.
v) Obtain information on industry demands to refine the delivery of technical skills (e.g. GIS) in existing and revised courses/programs.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 5.
w) Increase program flexibility by revising upper-level program requirements to make them less prescriptive; organize upper-level requirements into categories from which students can choose courses.	<i>ERR</i> , pp. 5-6, p. 7.
x) Retain the AA in Geography degree.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 6.
y) Have department discussion (perhaps part of faculty-wide conversation) on how to enhance Indigenous content in program requirements.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 6, p. 7.
z) Reconsider idea of enhancing skills development by increasing dedicated courses in lower level; recommend approach of integrating enhanced skills development into existing courses.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 6.
aa) Discontinue mandatory regional geography requirement; perhaps replace it with an optional, integrative, theme- and place-based course focusing on a selected area of the world.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 7.
bb) Make GEOG 1102 Physical Geography a 3-credit course; reduce cost of delivery by reducing the number of labs or by using online labs or digital tools vs. in-person labs.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 7.
cc) Consider possible integration of learning outcomes across courses; i.e. possible combinations of existing courses into a single course, and possible integration of outcomes (e.g. skills development) into existing thematic courses.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 7.
dd) Revamp course names to enhance their appeal to students outside Geography and to provide a clearer impression of course content.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 7.
ee) Consider revamping course outlines/descriptions to point toward applications/relevance of learning outcomes.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 7.
ff) Consider removing some GEOG-specific pre-requisites or adding alternate pre-requisites from other programs to reduce barriers to students entering 2000-level and higher GEOG courses.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 7, p. 8.
gg) Engage a PAC in a review of PLOs to ensure they provide a clear link to career paths students may pursue.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 7.
hh) Explore how experiential learning can be expanded and integrated into GEOG programs, including consideration of how existing courses in Science and Horticulture may be incorporated as optional-equivalent courses.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 8.
ii) Provide students with a clearer understanding of career pathways by identifying a smaller number of career 'streams' in program marketing and curriculum re-design.	<i>ERR</i> , pp. 9-10.
jj) Enhance utilization of physical geographers/physical geography expertise in the department.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 10.

Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses	Indicate Report & Page Number
kk) Revise programs to enhance physical geography offerings, reduce incidence of course cancellations, and reduce effects of course cancellations on student progress in meeting degree requirements and graduating with their credential.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 10, p. 13.
ll) Create a PAC with stakeholders from various sectors and meet bi-annually to engage in ongoing evaluation of KPU GEOG programs to ensure their currency and relevance.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 11.

Action(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
2A) Establish, by determining its composition and recruiting participants, a KPU Geography and the Environment Program Advisory Committee (PAC) that will meet regularly.	Joe Koch David Sadoway	11/24	11/25	Addresses recommendations a and ll. Once Action 2A is complete, department faculty and PAC members will create a meeting schedule for 2025/26.
2B) Draft revisions to the Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs), curriculum maps, structure, and course requirements of the AA in Geography, BA Minor in Geography, and BA Major in Geography degrees, as needed to address program design issues identified in the <i>SSR</i> and <i>ERR</i> .	John Rose John Martin David Sadoway	11/24	05/25	Addresses recommendations b, c, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z, aa, cc, ff, hh, ii, jj, and kk.
2C) Draft revisions to the Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs), content, and titles of existing courses, develop draft course outlines for proposed new courses, and revise curriculum maps as needed to accompany program revisions (Action 2B) and to address curricular design issues identified in the <i>SSR</i> and <i>ERR</i> .	David Sadoway John Rose	11/24	05/25	Addresses recommendations c, d, g, i, j, k, m, n, o, p, r, s, t, u, v, y, z, aa, bb, cc, dd, ee, ff, jj. Action 2C addresses recommendation 'o' in that the specified maximum class size of any revised/new courses will affect course fill rate calculations.
2D) Solicit PAC input on draft program/course revisions (Actions 2B and 2C) as a supplement to the information and recommendations in the <i>SSR and ERR</i> , and update program/course draft revisions as necessary.	Joe Koch David Sadoway John Rose	05/25	09/25	Addresses recommendations a, v, gg, and ll. Given the urgency of Actions 2B and 2C, and the abundant information provided in the <i>SSR</i> and <i>ERR</i> to inform them, the

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				department will draft program/course revisions while a PAC is being formed (Action 2A). As is possible, input on program/course revisions will be obtained from PAC members while the PAC is being established.
2E) Submit proposed program and course revisions (Actions 2B and 2C) for review and approval by the Faculty of Arts Faculty Council and Senate.	John Rose David Sadoway Parthi Krishnan	09/25	05/26	Addresses recommendations b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z, aa, bb, cc, dd, ee, ff, hh, ii, jj, and kk.
2F) Implement approved revisions to the AA in Geography, BA Minor in Geography, and BA Major in Applied Geography degree programs/courses.	Parthi Krishnan	09/26	09/27	Addresses recommendations b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z, aa, bb, cc, dd, ee, ff, hh, ii, jj, and kk.
2G) Solicit ongoing PAC feedback on the currency and relevance of the revised AA in Geography, BA Minor in Geography, and BA Major in Applied Geography degree programs/courses.	Joe Koch David Sadoway	09/26	09/27	Addresses recommendations a, v, gg, and ll. Describes first cycle of a continuing process.
2H) Conduct preliminary research and consultations to specifically assess the potential for future development of a Geographic Information Systems (GIS)/technical stream within the BA Minor in Geography and BA Major in Applied Geography degree programs.	Mungandi Nasitwitwi Parthi Krishnan Dola Pradhan	09/28	11/29	Addresses recommendations a, b, c, f, g, u, v, z, gg, and ll. There is faculty interest in creating a GIS/technical stream in the department's BA programs, but initial degree revisions in 2024/25 will prioritize other, more urgent, items (e.g. the enhancement of physical/environmental geography

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				programming). Action 2H anticipates a potential direction for future degree development in the next round of program review/five-year planning.

Resource Requirements (if applicable)
Resources required to achieve this Goal: Actions 2A – H: None.
When resources will be required: Actions 2A – H: Not Applicable.
Faculty and/or Institutional support required: Action 2A: Meeting time and input/expertise from the Faculty of Arts Dean’s Office regarding procedures for establishing a PAC. Actions 2B and 2C: Meeting time and input/expertise from faculty/staff in Co-Operative Education, Teaching and Learning, and Indigenous Studies regarding the incorporation of work-integrated/service learning, experiential learning, skills development, and Indigenous approaches/knowledge in program and course design and delivery. Actions 2B and 2C: Meeting time and input/expertise, as required, from Teaching and Learning to inform departmental revisions to PLOs, CLOs, and curriculum maps. Actions 2B and 2C: Meeting time and input/expertise from the Office of the Provost and VP Academic to evaluate proposed program changes in relation to the Province of BC Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills requirements. Action 2E: Approval from the Faculty of Arts Dean’s Office and the Faculty of Arts Faculty Council (plus subsequent approval by Senate) of program/course revisions.

GOAL 3: Increase our engagement with communities inside and outside KPU to enrich the quality, relevance, and visibility of our programs.

Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses	Indicate Report & Page Number
a) Establish a Program Advisory Committee (PAC) to reinforce program relevance.	SSR, Recommendation C1, p. 83.
b) Explore ways to maintain and enhance support of the Kwantlen Geographers student club, given its importance in connecting the department to current, and future, program alumni.	SSR, Recommendation RD1, p. 84.
c) Pursue opportunities to further enhance alumni-department ties, including the creation of social events for alumni, and professional development/networking events connecting alumni with discipline/sector partners.	SSR, Recommendation RD2, p. 84.
d) Explore establishing a regular series of guest lectures, talks, and presentations by/with external discipline/sector partners; in doing so, consider if and how departmental funds can be allocated to promote and support faculty-driven initiatives in this area.	SSR, Recommendation RD4, p. 84.
e) Consider establishing a mentorship program partnering program students with people in relevant industries.	SSR, Recommendation RD5, p. 84.
f) Consider hosting, upon the completion of program review, the annual meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (WDCAG), and/or a similar conference, as well as the annual BCCAT Geography Articulation meeting.	SSR, Recommendation RD7, p. 84.
g) Develop systematic connections with external groups.	ERR, p. 10.
h) Create a PAC with stakeholders from various sectors and meet bi-annually to engage in ongoing evaluation of KPU GEOG programs to ensure their currency and relevance.	ERR, p. 11.
i) Enhance connections between students and community members in Geography-related fields via i) panel sessions, ii) guest lectures, and iii) mentorship programs.	ERR, p. 11.
j) Maintain existing high level of faculty/student rapport.	ERR, p. 13

Action(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
3A) Establish, by determining its composition and recruiting participants, a KPU Geography and the Environment Program Advisory Committee (PAC) that will meet regularly.	Joe Koch David Sadoway	11/24	11/25	Addresses recommendations a, g, and h. Once Action 3A is complete, department faculty and PAC members will create a meeting schedule for 2025/26. This is also Action 2A, Goal 2.

Action(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
3B) Establish a regular schedule of faculty meetings with the Kwantlen Geographers student club to coordinate events/marketing efforts and assist the club as needed/welcome.	John Martin David Sadoway Joe Koch	11/24	11/25	Addresses recommendations b and j.
3C) In consultation with the PAC, develop and implement a regular series of guest lectures, talks, and presentations by/with external discipline/sector partners.	Joe Koch David Sadoway	09/25	09/26	Addresses recommendations c, d, i, and j. Describes the first cycle of an ongoing campaign.
3D) In consultation with the PAC, develop and implement a regular series of social and professional development/networking events connecting students and alumni with discipline/sector partners.	Joe Koch David Sadoway	09/26	09/27	Addresses recommendations c, d, i, and j. Describes the first cycle of an ongoing campaign.
3E) In consultation with the PAC, investigate the establishment of a mentorship program between program students and discipline/sector partners.	Joe Koch David Sadoway	09/27	09/28	Addresses recommendations e and i. Describes the first cycle of an ongoing initiative.
3F) Investigate hosting the annual BCCAT Geography and/or Earth Science Articulation meeting and/or an academic conference (e.g. the annual meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers).	Parthi Krishnan Joe Koch	09/27	11/28	Addresses recommendations f and g. If the investigation leads to a decision to host an articulation meeting/academic conference, this could take place in 2029.

Resource Requirements (if applicable)

Resources required to achieve this Goal: Actions 3A – 3E: None. Action 3F: None for the investigation process. Should the department decide to host an articulation meeting/academic conference, campus space for proceedings will be required.

When resources will be required: Actions 3A – 3E: Not applicable. Action 3F: Should the department decide to host an articulation meeting/academic conference, campus space may be required in 2029.

Resource Requirements (if applicable)

Faculty and/or Institutional support required: Action 3A: Meeting time and input/expertise from the Faculty of Arts Dean’s Office regarding procedures for establishing a PAC. Action 3B – 3D: None. Action 3E: Meeting time and input/expertise from the Faculty of Arts Dean’s office regarding procedures for establishing a discipline/sector – student mentorship program. Action 3F: Meeting time and input/expertise from the Faculty of Arts Dean’s Office regarding procedures for hosting an articulation meeting/academic conference. Should the department decide to host an articulation meeting/academic conference, this will require Faculty of Arts and KPU Office of University Space Administration support for campus space usage to host proceedings.

GOAL 4: Enhance our teaching and course delivery methods to reinforce student engagement, success, and satisfaction with our department and its degree programs.

Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses	Indicate Report & Page Number
a) Examine intra-year variations in KPU Geography course enrolments to assess factors, such as course mix and scheduling, which may impact enrolments; determine, from this, methods that can be used to increase enrolments in general and for terms with lower fill rates.	SSR, Recommendation RD13, p. 85.
b) Consider how to address variations in the ‘seats offered’ denominator when calculating, comparing, and making decisions based on course fill rates.	SSR, Recommendation RD14, p. 85.
c) Consider avenues to increase offerings of GEOG 1101 <i>Human Geography</i> , and possibly other introductory courses, to address unmet demand and increase the enrolment base supporting subsequent course and program enrolments.	SSR, Recommendation RD20, p. 85.
d) Explore and assess options to revise the format and delivery of GEOG 1102 Physical Geography to increase student demand for the course.	SSR, Recommendation RD21, p. 85.
e) Retain existing instructional methods, including an emphasis on in-person course delivery in small class settings, and promotion of experiential learning, that contribute to strong assessments of instructional quality in our programs.	SSR, Recommendation ID1, p. 86.
f) Consider which program courses are most easily adapted, with minimal to no loss in instructional quality, for sections to be delivered online; for these, explore instructional methods to retain and enhance experiential learning opportunities.	SSR, Recommendation ID2, p. 86.
g) Consider how, in addition to or in lieu of program curriculum changes to enhance oral, writing, quantitative, visual, cartographic, and technical skills, as well as experiential learning opportunities, in the instruction of existing courses, especially at the first- and second-year levels.	SSR, Recommendation ID3, p. 86.
h) Assess current course scheduling and explore scheduling changes, such as increased availability of evening courses, as necessary to ensure that courses are as accessible as possible.	SSR, Recommendation ID4, p. 86.

Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses	Indicate Report & Page Number
i) Recommend to administrators that required program courses be protected from cancellation, particularly if just one section of that course is offered in an academic year.	SSR, Recommendation ID5, p. 86.
j) Consider a pilot course offering at KPU Civic Plaza, one selected to capitalize on the location of the campus in Surrey City Centre with attendant possibilities for enhanced experiential learning in course delivery.	SSR, Recommendation RSF5, p. 87.
k) Advocate, through the Faculty of Arts, for increased department access to more secure financial resources in support of the lab assistant position, and the offering of required program courses instead of cancelling them due to low enrolment.	SSR, Recommendation RSF8, p. 87.
l) Enhance instruction in foundational and 'soft' skills (written and oral communication, time management, teamwork) in lower-level years.	ERR, p. 5, p. 9, p. 11, p. 14.
m) Enhance experiential learning opportunities, including field courses and practicums.	ERR, p. 5, p. 14.
n) Obtain information on industry demands to refine the delivery of technical skills (e.g. GIS) in existing and revised courses/programs.	ERR, p. 5.
o) Assess the right balance of course delivery modes (e.g. online vs. in-person), and course scheduling (e.g. daytime vs. evening courses) considering pedagogy and divergent student needs; poll students to obtain information on the latter.	ERR, p. 6, p. 14.
p) Have department discussion (perhaps part of faculty-wide conversation) on how to enhance Indigenous content in program requirements.	ERR, p. 6.
q) Make GEOG 1102 Physical Geography a 3-credit course; reduce cost of delivery by reducing the number of labs or by using online labs or digital tools vs. in-person labs.	ERR, p. 7.
r) Consider possible integration of learning outcomes across courses: i.e. possible combinations of existing courses into a single course, and possible integration of outcomes (e.g. skills development) into existing thematic courses.	ERR, p. 7.
s) Explore how experiential learning can be expanded and integrated into GEOG programs, including consideration of how existing courses in Science and Horticulture may be incorporated as optional-equivalent courses.	ERR, p. 8.
t) Maintain existing high level of instructional quality.	ERR, p. 13.
u) Consider alternative ways (e.g. 'flipped' class) of delivering course curriculum.	ERR, p. 14.
v) Form a GIS working group to assess alternative approaches (e.g. using open-source GIS applications vs. proprietary ArcGIS software) to teaching GIS.	ERR, p. 14, p. 15.
w) Enhance the integration of library resources into program students' academic experience (e.g. with assignments that incorporate information literacy components and use of library resources).	ERR, p. 15, p. 16.

Action(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
4A) Assess the viability of GEOG 1102 <i>Physical Geography</i> in its current 4-credit lecture + lab format and evaluate alternative methods for delivering the course's Science and applied laboratory content.	John Martin Joe Koch Mungandi Nasitwitwi	11/24	09/25	Addresses recommendations d, k, q, and t. Action 4A coincides with Action 5B: consultations with the Faculty of Arts Dean's Office on strategies to secure the department's lab assistant position which supports GEOG 1102 <i>Physical Geography</i> and important departmental activities (e.g. student outreach and marketing).
4B) Establish a KPU Geography and the Environment Geographic Information Systems (GIS) faculty working group to maintain currency in the field, advise the department on cartographic/GIS skills instruction, address operational/infrastructural issues and requirements, and pursue opportunities for broader collaborations and synergies.	Mungandi Nasitwitwi Dola Pradhan Parthi Krishnan	11/24	12/24	Addresses recommendations n, t, and v.
4C) Investigate, including consultations as required, methods for enhancing cartographic/GIS skills development in the instructional delivery of program courses (including those beyond the GIS-specific GEOG 2400 and GEOG 4380).	Mungandi Nasitwitwi Dola Pradhan Parthi Krishnan	12/24	05/25	Addresses recommendations m, r, t, and v. Action 4C would be led by the GIS working group once it is established (Action 5B). Action 4C describes the first cycle, accompanying degree/course revisions outlined in Actions 2B and 2C, of a continuing process.
4D) Consult with Teaching and Learning, Library Services, and other relevant parties (e.g. other departments) to identify ways of enhancing experiential learning and quantitative, qualitative, research, interpersonal, and personal management skills development in the instructional delivery of program courses.	John Rose David Sadoway	12/24	05/25	Addresses recommendations e, f, g, l, m, r, s, t, u, and w. Action 4D describes the first cycle, accompanying degree/course revisions

Action(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
				outlined in Actions 2B and 2C, of a continuing process.
4E) Consult with Indigenous Studies and other relevant parties (e.g. other departments) to identify ways of incorporating Indigenous perspectives/knowledge in the instructional delivery of program courses.	David Sadoway	12/24	05/25	Addresses recommendations p and t. Action 4E describes the first cycle, accompanying degree/course revisions outlined in Actions 2B and 2C, of a continuing process.
4F) Design a systematic, annual data collection/analysis plan to assess the impacts of course mix, scheduling, location, and mode (e.g. in-person vs. online) on enrolments.	Parthi Krishnan John Rose	09/25	01/26	Addresses recommendations a, b, c, f, h, j, and o.
4G) Meet with the Faculty of Arts Dean's Office to discuss strategies to minimize or eliminate cancellations of required program courses.	Parthi Krishnan	01/26	06/26	Addresses recommendations i and k.
4H) Implement a systematic, annual data collection/analysis plan (Action 4F) to assess the impacts of course mix, scheduling, location, and mode (e.g. in-person vs. online) on enrolments.	Parthi Krishnan John Rose	01/26	01/27	Addresses recommendations a, b, c, f, h, j, and o. Action 4H describes the first cycle of a continuing process.

Resource Requirements (if applicable)
Resources required to achieve this Goal: None.
When resources will be required: Not applicable.
Faculty and/or Institutional support required: Actions 4A – 4C: None. Action 4D: Meeting time and input/expertise from faculty/staff in Teaching and Learning, and Library Services. Action 4E: Meeting time and input/expertise from faculty in Indigenous Studies. Action 4F: Meeting time and input/expertise from the Faculty of Arts Dean's Office and the Office of Planning and Accountability. None. Action 4G:

Resource Requirements (if applicable)

Meeting time and input/expertise from the Faculty of Arts Dean’s Office. Action 4H: Potential assistance from the Faculty of Arts Dean’s Office and the Office of Planning and Accountability.

GOAL 5: Strengthen infrastructure, staffing, and service provisions to reinforce student engagement, success, and satisfaction with our department and its degree programs.

Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses	Indicate Report & Page Number
a) Review the QFL list for all program courses to identify and correct gaps in course coverage.	SSR, Recommendation RD8, p. 84.
b) Investigate, with the Faculty of Arts Dean’s Office, the current funding situation for non-regular physical geography faculty, and the lab assistant position, and potential approaches to make this more secure in the next 1-2 years.	SSR, Recommendation RD11, p. 85.
c) Consider organizing with the library periodic (e.g. annual) meeting/information sessions to inform and update faculty about resources available to support them and program students.	SSR, Recommendation RSF1, p. 86.
d) Explore reasons for (some) faculty dissatisfaction with various library and learning services, as numerically summarized in program review survey results, and consider (re) establishing a faculty service position as department/library liaison.	SSR, Recommendation RSF2, p. 86.
e) Explore department needs for updated or additional instrumentation to support programs and develop a prioritized purchase plan.	SSR, Recommendation RSF3, pp. 86-87.
f) Consider establishing a departmental GIS working group to assess issues with current software/hardware, and present/future needs considering discipline/sector developments. Explore possibilities to follow up with relevant parties providing and using GIS technology at KPU to develop a coordinated, university-wide plan.	SSR, Recommendation RSF4, p. 87.
g) Explore organizing a meeting/information session with teaching and learning, career services, and international student services to inform faculty about resources available to them and to students.	SSR, Recommendation RSF6, p. 87.
h) Advocate, through the Faculty of Arts, for increased department access to more secure financial resources in support of the lab assistant position, and the offering of required program courses instead of cancelling them due to low enrolment.	SSR, Recommendation RSF8, p. 87.
i) Access the KPU Teaching and Learning Innovation fund to establish a ‘GIS Student Champion for Open-Source support’.	ERR, pp. 7-8.
j) Maintain existing high level of facilities provision (e.g. having a dedicated GEOG classroom space).	ERR, p. 13.

Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses	Indicate Report & Page Number
k) Invest in and support the lab instructor position to maintain and enhance the delivery, cohesion, and promotion of the program.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 14.
l) Form a GIS working group to assess concerns related to GIS hardware and software, and the availability of computer labs to students outside of class time.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 14, p. 15.
m) Enhance communication between the department and Academic Advising (e.g. guiding program students to contact/meet with academic advisors, notifying advisors of course cancellations, informing advisors of courses associated with career paths/professional requirements).	<i>ERR</i> , p. 15, p. 16.
n) Re-direct the unused library budget for the purchase of Geography materials toward improving GIS hardware/software availability through the library.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 16.
o) Consider developing a paid 'peer mentor' student position.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 16.
p) Enhance student access to computer labs during non-instructional time via an online booking system like that created by the Faculty of Health.	<i>ERR</i> , p. 16.

Action(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
5A) Contact Academic Advising, KPU International, Library Services, and Teaching and Learning to identify methods (e.g. visits to library facilities, visits to department meetings, etc.) for communicating more regularly and systematically.	John Martin	11/24	01/25	Addresses recommendations c, d, g, m, and n.
5B) Consult with the Faculty of Arts Dean's Office to discuss strategies for securing the department's lab assistant position, considering current program needs and anticipated future program development.	John Martin	01/25	09/25	Addresses recommendations b, h, and k. Action 5B coincides with the status assessment (Action 4A) of GEOG 1102 <i>Physical Geography</i> , the course which is directly supported by the department's lab assistant position.
5C) Perform an annual review of the Qualified Faculty List (QFL) for all program courses.	John Martin Joe Koch John Rose	09/25	02/26	Addresses recommendation a. Action 5C describes the first cycle of a continuing process. This is to be conducted by the members of the

Geography Quality Assurance Plan

Action(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
				department Search Committee (current members listed).
5D) Investigate, including consultations as required, the status of supporting infrastructure (lab availability, software, hardware, etc.) at KPU for instruction in Geographic Information Systems, and develop a plan to meet current and future needs.	Mungandi Nasitwitwi Dola Pradhan Parthi Krishnan	09/25	05/26	Addresses recommendations e, f, i, j, l, n, p. Action 5D would be led by the GIS working group once it is established (Action 4B). Action 5D describes the first cycle, accompanying degree/course revisions outlined in Actions 2B and 2C, of a continuing process.
5E) Develop and implement a systematic, annual, plan for identifying department needs for upgraded/additional spaces and materials (e.g. classroom space, marketing materials, maps, rock and mineral samples, etc.) and prioritizing purchases.	Parthi Krishnan	09/25	05/26	Addresses recommendations e and j. Action 5E describes the first cycle of a continuing process.
5F) Assess the potential for the creation of a paid KPU Geography and the Environment student mentor position.	Dola Pradhan Mungandi Nasitwitwi	01/27	09/27	Addresses recommendation o. If this assessment results in a decision to create a student peer mentor position, posting/hiring could be conducted from 09/27 to 12/27, with the position starting in 01/28.

Resource Requirements (if applicable)

Resources required to achieve this Goal: Action 5A: None. Action 5B: continued funding for the pay of the lab instructor. Actions 5C – 5E: None. Action 5F: None for the assessment process. Pay for the paid student mentor position should one be hired.

Resource Requirements (if applicable)

When resources will be required: Action 5A: Not applicable. Action 5B: continued funding for the pay of the lab instructor from 01/25 onward. Actions 5C – 5E: Not applicable. Action 5F: 01/28, should a paid student mentor be hired.

PLAN SUPPORTED BY:

Diane Purvey

Provost's Name



Provost's Signature

12 November 2024

Date

Shelley Boyd

Dean's Name



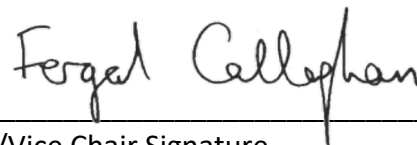
Dean's Signature

4 November 2024

Date

Fergal Callaghan

Name of SSCPR Chair/Vice Chair



SSCPR Chair/Vice Chair Signature

12 November 2024

Date approved by SSCPR: