

Kinesiology and Physical Education Program Review

Faculty of Science

Dean's Summary

Submitted by:
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Accepted by:
Senate in May 2011
Academic Planning and Priorities Committee in April 2011

The purpose of the Program and Unit Review focused on the following areas:

1. Student Success (vision for ideal graduate, student culture, engagement and success, personal growth and advising)
2. Program goals and outcomes for both streams (vision for future goals, program mix, future graduate credentials, key competencies, quality, breadth and mix of lecture and lab courses, methodologies, options for students , environmental sustainability, needs of minority groups and the community)
3. Program viability and growth opportunities (vision for the future, entrance requirements, class sizes)
4. Research, Scholarly Activity, Community Involvement/Service (vision for research, student involvement, integration of research and teaching)
5. Administrative setting(role on three campuses, student mobility, administrative context)

In accordance with Policy 210.15 Academic and Program Unit Reviews, the previous Dean of Science provided the Kinesiology and Physical Education with a scope letter dated 11 December 2009. The Department delivered their finalized self study to the Dean of Science in October, 2010. The site visit took place on November 3rd and 4th 2010.

The reviewers met with faculty, staff, administrators, students and alumni. The committee was provided with the Department's Self Study, the university's Strategic Plan, curriculum vitae of faculty and staff and material from Institutional Research. The review team provided their final report on November 18th 2011. At the end of February 2011 the KPE Department held a retreat to formulate a response to the recommendations of the external review. On 8 March, 2011 the KPE Department provided their response to the Dean of Science.

From the external reviewers' report:

"It is the opinion of the External Review Team (ERT) that the Kinesiology and Physical Education (KPE) program is doing very well, despite existing fiscal and physical limitations. Specifically, the program boasts productive scholars, valued instructors, and engaged students well-equipped for advanced education and the workforce. This opinion is based on current practice in Canada, the USA and some European countries (one external reviewer has spent 6 of the last 10 years in the USA and another did 2 years of post-doctoral training in the USA and collaborates with researchers in Europe). Well done KPE!"

Following are comments on the external review recommendations, the departmental response and the implementation of the recommendations. It should be noted that the KPE Department will move into a new Faculty of Health Sciences over the coming summer. Some of these recommendations, although supported by the KPE Department and Dean can only be implemented if and when required funding is available.

1. Recruitment

It was noted that the KPE program is in high demand and in a position of strength where demand exceeds spaces in the program.

Recommendation 1a: Deliver lower-level KPE offerings at the Chilliwack Campus.

Action: The Dean will support the KPE Department in the development of a first year cohort on the Chilliwack campus for Fall, 2012, once the campus has been completed. The KPE Department is requesting some capital funding for equipment for the cohort and confirmation of space availability. The department is not currently offering any courses on the Chilliwack campus and has more than 36 students living in Chilliwack and taking courses in Abbotsford. It is assumed that service courses will be provided at no additional cost to service departments as it will be a relocation of sections not new offerings.

Recommendation 1b: Increase entrance requirements to increase the quality of students.

Action: The KPE Department agreed that raising requirements would increase student quality but felt that the requirements are already considered high in the UFV context and they would rather streamline the existing requirements and set specific intake numbers. The Dean supports the department in this decision.

Recommendation 1c: Consider obtaining Council of University Physical Education and Kinesiology Administrators (CCUPEKA) accreditation for the KPE program

Action: The Dean will work with the KPE department to prepare a proposal, timeline and budget to implement this recommendation. The accreditation process could likely replace future program reviews. The timeline will have to be adapted to available funding and the implementation will have to be planned over an extended period of time.

Recommendation 1d: Provide institutional support to enhance the quality of the KPE website.

Action: The Dean is in support of this recommendation, but implementation might be delayed by the change in Content Management System that is planned. Additional administrative support could alleviate this issue.

Recommendation 1e: Continue with existing recruitment activities (e.g., high school presentations) that advertise the program to potential students.

Action: The KPE Department and the Dean are in support of this recommendation. Recruitment in general in the Faculty of Science has been scaled down due to large student numbers. This will be resumed once needed.

2. Retention

The Review panel commented on the excellent job KPE was doing of engaging and supporting student success. They still had the following recommendations:

Recommendation 2a: Build a stronger sense of a professional community by enhancing the capstone experiences (KPE 450c and KPE 455 see Curriculum section), hosting conferences, and hosting certification workshops.

Action: The KPE Department recognizes the weaknesses in the two current courses. Issues include the way the courses are offered and the nature of the courses. The Department hopes to change the courses and add a venue for sharing experiences that will benefit all students greatly. The Dean will work with the KPE Department in the development of a capstone experience and possibly the development of an honor's degree in the future.

Recommendation 2b: Continue with online course offerings and consider expanding offerings to meet the needs of students and generate revenue.

Action: As this recommendation is based on increasing FTE's, it will only be considered for the future as we are in a no growth FTE funding at the moment. Existing courses could be offered online – no new FTE required. The Dean is supportive of the development of online offerings as it pertains to flexibility for current students. It should be noted that the KPE Department is already offering a considerable number of courses online.

Recommendation 2c: Encourage and support the KPE student association's (KPESA) efforts to develop a "kinesiology" culture on campus by providing minimal funding, Faculty leadership, and space for professional activities for students (i.e., guest speakers, workshops, etc).

Action: The Dean supports the addition of a volunteer student network, a speaker's panel /graduate speaker series, and other unique student experiences. The KPE Department could guide KPESA to ensure they include some activities with academic merit.

3. Faculty

The dedication of faculty to create high quality learning experiences and building relationships with students was especially commended by the external reviewers.

Recommendation 3a: Faculty must determine a reasonable balance of resources for teaching both the Exercise Science and the Physical Education (PE) streams of the KPE program. If the decision is to deliver the PE stream, Faculty must establish some short, mid, and long term goals to support that mission. More specifically, hiring of additional Faculty with expertise in PE pedagogy and curricula will be needed. Course offerings in PE pedagogy and curricula will also need to be added.

Action: As this recommendation includes the need for course releases, more faculty appointments and the possibility of increased enrolment, the implementation will have to be carefully planned and executed. The Dean is supportive of this initiative and will work with the department to produce a feasible budget and implementation plan.

Recommendation 3b: Investments in infrastructure that support Faculty teaching and research are critical for the program to remain current and credible. Specifically, lab, classroom, and storage space (i.e., pedagogy equipment) need to be increased, and numerous equipment upgrades and purchases are

needed (e.g., metabolic cart, EMG equipment and software, miscellaneous equipment for exercise testing and prescription). Further investments will be required if the program is to compete with other accredited programs in the country.

Action: The Dean will work with the department to develop a budget and timeline for the replacement of equipment. It should be noted that the KPE department recently submitted a capital request which would, if approved, alleviate some of the issues with infrastructure.

Recommendation 3c: Provide additional support staff and increase release time for the KPE department head.

Action: Additional administrative support has already been requested in the budget for the upcoming year. The Dean is supportive of increased release time for the department head as funding permits.

Recommendation 3d: Faculty must protect their time so that they are able to continue delivering high quality learning experiences, engaging environments, and applied student experiences that set them apart from 'the big three' (i.e., UBC, SFU, UVic). This would mean that administration must continue to provide adequate releases for scholarly activity, research and must create releases for administrative duties to allow the unit to continue to excel.

Action: The Dean supports the Department's quest to excel. The funds for scholarly activity and research are administered by faculty committees and until such time as that changes the department will have to compete with other departments for releases. The funds will however continue to be allocated.

4. Support Staff

KPE has seen increases in faculty and FTE's over the last number of years, with no increase in support staff.

Recommendation 4a: Increase the number of support staff for the KPE department from one to 1.5 or 2 full-time support staff (i.e., one support staff member for advising and one for administrative support).

Action: A request has already been made for a .5 increase in support for the 2011-12 budget year.

Recommendation 4b: KPE needs more funded work-study opportunities to support the development of student teaching, mentoring, learning, and a professional learning community.

Action: The allocation of work study students is currently under review, the allocation to specific departments will depend on the outcomes of the review.

5. Research Support

The KPE faculty is very involved in research and scholarly activity and have had success with grant applications, publication and student involvement. The review panel recognized this fact.

Recommendation 5a: Capital investments in lab equipment (i.e., hardware and software, equipment) and lab space that support both research and teaching (see Faculty section) are needed.

Action: The Dean will work with the KPE department to assess the research needs of the department. It has to be noted that space especially is at a premium at the moment. This situation will only be alleviated with more buildings on the Abbotsford campus or relocation of functions to one of the other campuses.

Recommendation 5b: UFV, or the unit, should consider developing a system for recognizing and rewarding research and other scholarly activity.

Action: Recognition is important but separate from rewards. UFV faculty will need to come to an agreement on any system of rewards.

Recommendation 5c: UFV must create a funding source to support new Faculty hires.

Action: This funding source already exists and the type of support depends on the needs of new faculty. The method of accounting for new faculty has changed which will provide for a more consistent, transparent funding source.

6. Facilities

The review panel noted that KPE has old equipment and limited space.

Recommendation 6a: Provide the unit with a lab budget to acquire, maintain and replace necessary laboratory equipment and supplies for basic Kinesiology labs as well as PE teaching supplies.

Action: As no growth funding is expected from the province, the Dean will encourage the KPE Department to explore entrepreneurial activities to raise the required funds.

Recommendation 6b: Capitalize on the desire and resources of Pacific Sport to create lab space and make investments in capital equipment.

Action: The Dean will support entrepreneurial ventures such as this one, however we are severely limited for space and providing office space to Pacific Sport has been part of the agreement with them in the past - we will not necessarily be able to do this in future.

Recommendation 6c: Invest in Physical Education (PE) pedagogy resources (i.e., equipment and storage space) to support the PE portion of the KPE program (contingent upon Recommendation 3a in the Faculty section). For example, establish dedicated storage space in the gymnasium for equipment.

Action: The Dean will work with the KPE department to establish when the Physical Education program expansion can happen and how it will be resourced.

Recommendation 6d: Continue funding library budget and online access to full-text journals.

Action: There is a yearly allocation for library that will be sustained. An expansion will be dependent on funding.

7. Curriculum

The review panel commented that the current curriculum meets the needs of students. The imbalance between the two streams is an issue, as well as the lack of accreditation with CCUPEKA.

Recommendation 7a: Faculty must decide if they are committed to delivering the Physical Education (PE) stream of the KPE degree. If the decision is to deliver the PE stream, Faculty must establish some short, mid, and long term goals to support that mission. At a minimum, the KPE program will need to hire additional Faculty with expertise in PE pedagogy and curricula and offer more PE pedagogy and curricula courses. Finally, the committee recommends establishing a 'shared technical language' (STL; consistent terminology) for the evidence-based approaches taught in the PE stream. The STL should be consistent among activity courses, theory courses, and seminar/practical experiences.

Action: As the department is moving into a new faculty, this proposal will likely go through the process in the new faculty. The Dean will support the department's wish to develop the Physical Education Stream further. This development will enhance the program. It will however be crucial to take the current environment and cost associated with the new development into account when deciding on a timeline. The Dean will work with the department until they move to the new faculty to come up with an implementation plan.

Recommendation 7b: Administration should encourage and fully support Faculty who take the initiative to bring professional certification workshops to campus.

Action: The Dean is fully supportive of professional certifications for students as it adds value and increases employment opportunities.

Recommendation 7c: Faculty must discuss plans for the role of CCUPEKA accreditation in the growth and development of the program. If CCUPEKA accreditation is obtained, administration must support the program with resources to deliver programs according to the mandated requirements of the certification. Additionally, there will need to be a plan in place to ensure that >50% of the core courses within the degree will need to be taught by full-time Faculty as required by CCUPEKA. Also, it is recommended that the KPE Head/ Director or delegate should be funded to attend both annual meetings of CCUPEKA.

Action: The Dean will work with the department towards development of resources to ensure successful accreditation. It is important to note that the development of governing bodies such as CCUPEKA historically leads to programs being accredited and eventually to student registration. For this reason the implementation of this recommendation is of particular importance. The department is provided with budget to travel and attending meetings.

Recommendation 7d: Enhance the 'capstone' experiences for the two streams. Enhancing opportunities for interdisciplinary sharing between KPE 450c/d and KPE 455 could be accomplished by creating a culminating/capstone experience that requires early semester proposal presentations by all students (where interested students enrolled in first, second and third year could attend), mid-semester presentations on topics of interest to the group, and final presentations on significant issues and challenges to the group as well as final research presentations by graduating students. The final

presentations could take the form of poster presentations combined with a celebration lunch or evening for the program's graduates. In addition to facilitating sharing among the two streams, this approach has the potential to build the professional community and culture, increase the depth of knowledge among students, and serve as a mechanism for engaging the community partners (i.e., practica supporters) at UFV in scholarly activity.

Action: The Dean is supportive of this development and will provide support where necessary.

Recommendation 7f: Explore mechanisms for creating student mentoring opportunities within the program. Creating supported student learning groups was mentioned as one established mechanism for supporting student mentoring activities. This would require administrative support for additional work-study opportunities (see Recommendation 4b in the Support Staff section).

Action: See comment on recommendation 4b

Recommendation 7g: Investigate the time it takes for students to graduate from the KPE program. If students are not able to easily complete the degree in four years because of course scheduling, degree requirements, and long wait lists, the KPE program will need to identify strategies to facilitate student success in the program. Some possible solutions include increasing summer offerings and/or reducing course requirements. Essentially, the program will need to look at mechanisms for increasing the flexibility/availability of courses for students to help them complete the degree requirements in a timely fashion.

Action: This data will be useful for all departments and the Dean will support the work of the KPE Department with Institutional Research to gather data about graduation rates, and the improvement of flexibility of the program. The KPE department mentioned that any changes will help students currently in the program but not students who are waiting to get into the program.

8. Process

Recommendation 8a: The institution should establish an orientation session for the academic unit and the stakeholders involved in the review process (i.e., senior administration, institutional research, and the academic unit). Most importantly, senior administration should be explicit about how this process will facilitate long-term planning for the academic unit.

Action: This process has been established and refined. As this unit was one of the first to go through the process the orientation has since been improved.

Recommendation 8b: Provide the academic unit with tangible support for completing a program review (i.e., support staff or release time).

Action: Since this review took place we have hired a coordinator and a support person to assist departments with the process.

Recommendation 8c: Commit to a reflection session about this review process with the key stakeholders. This will help the institution streamline the process for future program reviews.

Action: Please see comment on recommendation 8a

Recommendation 8d: Develop a structure that is adopted by the institution (i.e., items to be addressed by the external review team should be clearly indicated and presented to the External Review Members by the unit and University using similar headings). All “categories” or “areas” to be addressed by the External Review Team should align with the information provided or made available to external reviewers (i.e., the self study documents, the interview schedule, etc.). This would help streamline the process. The process and expectations as well as constraints should be outlined by the administration and guidelines regarding the report (i.e., length, scope, etc.) should be presented and standardized.

Action: During the site visit it was mentioned that the self study headings and the headings in the material sent to the External Review Team were not the same and they spent some time finding what they were looking for. This recommendation was communicated to the coordinator and taken further for the next review of the program review process.

9. Conclusion

The KPE department had three main cost items coming forward that is needed for the implementation of the various recommendations. They prioritized the items as follows:

1. Space
2. Equipment
3. New faculty for Physical Education Stream