

Internal Academic Review 2008-2009

Department of Chemistry Internal Academic Review Committee Report to Senate

The Internal Academic Review (IAR) of the Department of Chemistry is now complete. The Internal Academic Review Committee (IARC) has taken into consideration all of the submissions related to the IAR of the Department of Chemistry and respectfully submits the following report. The IARC Report to Senate is intended to supplement the findings of the attached Review Team Report and to provide a mechanism for the Head of the Department of Chemistry and the Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science to jointly report on the progress in addressing the Review Team recommendations (please see the "Outcomes" section of this report).

Summary of the Internal Academic Review of the Department of Chemistry

The Department of Chemistry is recognized as a strong Unit that provides an excellent learning environment and produces exceptional research that is attracting national acclaim. The IARC congratulates the Department of Chemistry for revising its undergraduate program and adjusting to current fiscal constraints by innovative and creative means of delivering its programs.

The IARC agrees with the External Consultants' and the Review Team's recommendation that the Department should develop a plan to fund the operation of shared instrumentation and to maintain the technical staffing levels. The Department of Chemistry may wish to consider introducing student lab fees to maintain the quality of the laboratories in Chernoff Hall.

The IARC shares the concern raised in the Review Team report that the Department of Chemistry needs to consider a long-term sustainability plan for its graduate enrolment levels.

The IARC encourages the Department of Chemistry to strengthen its communication with its Teaching Assistants (TAs) to ensure consistency in grading criteria and standards and to ensure that TAs understand what material on

Teaching Assistants participate in a TA Day organized by the departmental TA Development Committee. The TA Day covers general issues related to teaching assistantship, including departmental and safety regulations, use of the departmental database, legal obligations, teaching workshops and organizational meetings with laboratory and course coordinators. The Faculty applauds the Department's comprehensive approach to communication with Teaching Assistants in support of the overall teaching mission.

The Chemistry graduate module offerings were recently revised and updated, and the graduate calendar listings accurately reflect the current suite of modules offered to Chemistry graduate students.

The Department of Chemistry and the Faculty of Arts and Science acknowledge the difficult budgetary situation faced by the University and remain committed to promoting the teaching and research excellence enjoyed by this high profile department.