



September 25, 2019

Professor Susan McCahan
Vice-Provost, Academic Programs
Office of the Vice-President and Provost
University of Toronto

Follow-up Report: External Review of the Forensic Science Program at UTM

Dear Susan,

In a letter dated April 11, 2018, you requested a one-year follow-up report to the February 2018 review of the Forensic Science Program (FSC) at UTM. The letter conveyed a request from the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) to follow up on the medium to long-term developments, including the establishment of an EDU to provide the Program with independence from the Department of Anthropology.

Establishment of an EDU

A draft proposal to establish an EDU:B (the Forensic Science Centre) is currently underway. The proposed Forensic Science Centre will formally administer the existing specialists in Forensic Anthropology, Forensic Biology, Forensic Chemistry, and Forensic Psychology as well as the Major in Forensic Science and the Minor in Forensic Science subject posts. It is expected that the current five (5) full-time faculty contributing to the Forensic Science Program will join the EDU:B in addition to the expected forensic epistemologist, forensic psychologist, and the forensic microbiologist (see Faculty Complement Planning below).

Following the establishment of the Forensic Science Centre as an EDU:B, the unit will explore the feasibility of expanding academic offerings – specifically a professional master’s program (see Curriculum Alignment & Planning below) – and increasing organizational stability with the progression to an EDU:A. This will be done in consultation with the Department of Anthropology and the Dean’s Office.

Faculty Complement Planning

In direct response to the reviewer’s recommendation to build on the existing strengths in forensic chemistry and forensic toxicology, FSC has recently hired a teaching-stream Forensic Toxicologist. This new hire began on July 1, 2019.

Forensic Science originally envisioned hiring a Forensic Psychologist in the medium-term and then a Forensic Epistemologist in the long-term. With the approval of the Dean’s Office, FSC

instead decided to prioritize the Forensic Epistemologist hire. This search is currently underway with an expected start date of July 1, 2020. Long-term priority hires continue to be the Forensic Psychologist, and the Forensic Microbiologist.

All new hires (along with the existing five FSC-contributing faculty) will hold appointments in the Forensic Science Centre. The long-term goal is to have eight (8) primary faculty with cross-appointments from relevant UTM faculty in overlapping disciplines (i.e. from the departments of Anthropology, Biology, Chemical & Physical Sciences, and Psychology).

Curriculum Alignment & Planning

The curriculum mapping process is ongoing. As a direct result of curriculum mapping and review, several changes have been implemented in the FSC programs, particularly in the specialists, to streamline course offerings for better alignment with program learning outcomes and with a view to accreditation in the very near future. The addition of specific forensic science courses, such as *Analytical Toxicology* and *Advanced Forensic Biology*, have provided FSC with more autonomy and control within their own programs and in their curricular development. However, there is more work to do and so curriculum review and alignment will continue into the long-term.

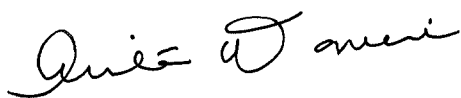
At the graduate level, a professional master's program is still a priority for FSC, to be examined in more detail once the Forensic Science Centre has been established as an EDU:B. Currently, Prof. Rogers is monitoring two existing master's programs at other universities. Though neither is an ideal model for UTM, their progress, successes and failures will be critical considerations as they develop their own graduate program.

Space Planning

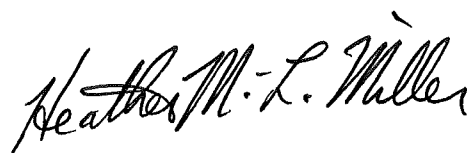
Plans for the "Science Building" are well underway at UTM. Currently, FSC will only occupy a suite of offices on the ground floor; however, possibilities exist for laboratory space in the building and will be requested through Facilities Management & Planning.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this response.

Sincerely,



Amrita Danieri
Vice-Principal, Academic & Dean



Heather M.-L. Miller
Vice-Dean, Teaching & Learning