



3 October 2016

Professor Sioban Nelson
Vice-Provost Academic Programs
University of Toronto

Dear Sioban,

I am writing in response to the request by the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) in regards to the March 2014 external review of the Human Biology Programs (HMB). At its meeting of October 27, 2015, AP&P requested a one-year follow-up report addressing the modifications to the Global Health and Environment and Health undergraduate programs, improvements to facilities and the faculty and staff complements. The Faculty has worked with the Program Director to address the concerns of the AP&P committee.

Modifications to Global Health and Environment and Health undergraduate programs:

- The Environment and Health undergraduate programs (Major and Specialist) were jointly offered by HMB and the School for the Environment. After consultations between the units, the decision was taken to transfer these programs entirely to the School for the Environment. This modification was accepted by the Science Curriculum committee in the 2015/16 governance cycle.
- HMB offers Major and Specialist programs in Global Health, with a current enrollment of 230 students. In order to ensure that the Global Health programs are providing a rigorous education that is reflective of the current state of the discipline, HMB formed a working group with to review the program content. Based on these productive discussions a Major Modification proposal to the Global Health programs will be submitted to the Dean's Office for discussion during the fall and if the proposal moves forward it will be submitted for approval to the Science Curriculum committee in the February governance cycle.

Improvements to Facilities:

- *Regarding Program Location:* HMB is housed in New College and this is an ideal home for the program. Twenty-three percent of HMB students are also New College students (this is the highest percentage of any college: SMC 20%, UC 17%, WDW 15%, Vic 12%, Innis 7%, Trin 6%), and the New College Registrar's office is next door. Thus, from a student perspective this location is ideal. HMB has been expanding in recent years, which has necessitated increased office space for staff and faculty, which New College has provided. There is excellent collaboration between HMB and New College faculty on academic initiatives, and collegiality between staff members of the two units that creates a stimulating work environment.

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- *Regarding Laboratories:* HMB has historically partnered with the Division of Teaching Labs (DTL) in the Faculty of Medicine to operate the lab components of HMB courses. Recognizing the need for HMB to expand its lab course offerings, FAS has built dedicated HMB labs in Ramsay Wright. These major renovations will allow HMB to nearly double its lab course offerings. In addition, FAS has approved a budget of 1.4 million to purchase state-of-the-art equipment. The new HMB labs will be staffed by 2.5 teaching lab technicians (dedicated to HMB labs). As a result of the new infrastructure and equipment, HMB is poised to offer cutting-edge biology lab courses to all students enrolled in its undergraduate programs. The labs were originally scheduled to open in September 2016, but due to construction delays their opening was postponed. During the delay HMB is continuing to operate in DTL until the HMB space is available in January 2017.

Faculty and Staff Complement:

- In 2015 Arts and Science completed a comprehensive staffing review of HMB Administrative Staff, which revealed that the HMB office was understaffed. In response to this review, FAS approved the reorganization of administrative staff and the hiring of an additional Undergraduate Coordinator. The current HMB staff complement consists of one Business Officer and two Undergraduate Coordinators. HMB has also hired 1 Teaching Technician and are in the process of searching for 1.5 additional Technicians. Taken together this more than doubles the HMB Staff complement.
- HMB currently has 5 Associate Professors, Teaching Stream and one 2-year CLTA, Teaching Stream. HMB was successful in its request to the FAS Faculty Appointments committee for a new Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream position (Neuroscience). They are currently searching for this position, with a start date of July 1, 2017.

I feel confident that the changes initiated by the program address the concerns of the AP&P follow-up request.

Sincerely,



David Cameron
Dean and Professor of Political Science

cc: Professor Melanie Woodin, Director, Human Biology Program