

Neuroscience

Undergraduate Review

Year 3 (2022) - FAR Implementation Report

(reviewed 2017-19)

Recommendation #1

Replace retiring faculty with new faculty who can contribute to the Neuroscience program.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside of the Committee's jurisdiction. It is expected that the Centre will proceed through normal channels of advocacy for faculty resources.

Implementation Plan

Recommendation not accepted.

Comments 2020:

Given the important nature of this recommendation in terms of the University's ability to continue providing the Neuroscience degree as a major to our students, and its capacity to meet the goals and interests of incoming students, as noted, members of the Centre will proceed through normal channels of advocacy for faculty resources.

Recommendation #2

Restructure administrative reporting

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Centre
Responsible for resources:	Centre
Responsible for implementation:	Centre
Timeline:	Dean of Mathematics and Science to report by the end of academic year 2019/20 after consultation with the Deans of Social Sciences and Applied Health Sciences

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Implement agreed plan for a meeting of NEUR program updates, etc. at 6-month intervals between the Deans of Mathematics and Science, Social Sciences and Applied Health Sciences and the Director of Neuroscience	Centre - NEUR Director to arrange/ initiate	T	O	

Comments 2020:

No additional comments.

Comments 2021:

Initial meeting with all Deans successful; ongoing updates to all Deans to be arranged; monthly individual and Faculty-wide Chairs/Directors meetings with the Dean of Mathematics and Science ongoing (NEUR is a program within FMS, Senate minutes 2002).

Comments 2022:

An update (and introduction of the new NEUR Director) was provided to the Dean of Social Sciences and Applied Health Sciences in the Fall term of 2021. Ongoing updates will be provided bi-annually. The Director continues to attend monthly individual and Faculty-wide Chairs/Directors meetings with the Dean of Mathematics and Science (NEUR is a program within FMS, Senate minutes 2002).

Recommendation #3

Assign specific space to the Neuroscience program

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside of the Committee’s jurisdiction. It expected that the Centre will proceed through normal channels of advocacy for space resources.

Implementation Plan

Recommendation not accepted.

Comments 2020:

The Neuroscience program will continue to discuss options and opportunities of space for NEUR students and administration with the Dean of Mathematics and Science, including requests through the University-wide space committee.

Recommendation #4

Establish a permanent Administrative assistant position.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside of the Committee’s jurisdiction. It expected that the Centre will proceed through normal channels of advocacy for administrative resources

Implementation Plan

Recommendation not accepted.

Comments 2022:

A dedicated administrative assistant for the NEUR program (with a dedicated NEUR office space) was hired in January 2022 on a 1-yr contract. The Centre hopes this will become a permanent position, as it is essential support for the program.

Recommendation #5

Institute a capstone research course.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Centre
Responsible for resources:	Centre
Responsible for implementation:	Centre
Timeline:	Dean of Mathematics and Science to report by the end of academic year 2019/20 after consultation with the Deans of Social Sciences and Applied Health Sciences

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 The Centre is pursuing the input from the Dean of Mathematics and Science regarding the development of a Capstone Course for NEUR Majors, but not Honours, degree students and developing a UPC submission.	Centre - NEUR Director to initiate	T	C	

Comments 2020:

No additional comments.

Comments 2021:

The Director of NEUR is also Co-ordinator of the NEUR 4F90, 4F91 and 4F92 thesis and research courses. These courses have been expanded to include research discussions and presentations from across the program areas (we have 5 streams - neurobiology, neuropsychology, neuromotor, neurocomputing and environmental neuroscience) for these students as they experience their fourth year efforts and prepare for their next ‘steps’ and challenges.

Comments 2022:

The Director will continue the expansion of research discussions at the 4th year level.

Recommendation #6

Assign a faculty Advisor dedicated to the Neuroscience program.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside of the Committee’s jurisdiction. It expected that the Centre will proceed through normal channels of advocacy for administrative resources

Implementation Plan

Recommendation not accepted.

Comments 2022:

A new Faculty Advisor was hired in Fall 2021 that is providing additional advising support to the NEUR program. The Centre hopes this will become a permanent position.

Recommendation #7

Increase participation in the Neuroscience program.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Centre
Responsible for resources:	Centre
Responsible for implementation:	Centre
Timeline:	Dean of Mathematics and Science to report by the end of academic year 2020/21 after consultation with the Deans of Social Sciences and Applied Health Sciences

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 The Centre has submitted a proposal to UPC for the new stream in Environmental Neuroscience, in addition to a review of course offerings/options every 6 months.	Centre - NEUR Director to initiate	T	O	

Comments 2020:

No additional comments.

Comments 2021:

The new neuroscience stream has been launched (Sep 2020), however we have no majors in that stream to date. We have essentially maintained the numbers of our majors despite COVID-19 challenges this past year (i.e., Sept 2020 N=111; Sept 2019 N=115; 2018 N=100). We have also had 4 new faculty members admitted to the Centre of Neuroscience - all of whom are able and eligible to contribute to the program by accepting Honours Thesis students.

Comments 2022:

The Director met with NEUR faculty members involved in the new Environmental Neuroscience stream to make improvements to this stream (expansion of course offerings) for the Fall APC submission, 2021. Additional course offerings were also made in the Neuropsychology stream to reflect the new NEUR members in the Psychology Department, after consultation with the Psychology faculty.

We have also gained a new NEUR faculty member (new hire in the Biological Sciences Department; Oct 2021) that will be contributing to two 3rd and 4th year level key courses in the Neuroscience program, including the lab-based course, Investigative Neurobiology (NEUR/BIOL 3P90), to which improvements and updates are underway. Our number of NEUR majors have remained constant, and have even increased compared to the last few years: 2021 - 115; 2020 - 108; 2019 - 103.