

# Symbiology

## Undergraduate and Graduate Review Four-Year Report (2017)

### A. Summary of Review

This review was conducted under the terms and conditions of the IQAP approved by Senate on June 6, 2011.

1. The academic programs offered by the Centre for Symbiology which were examined as part of the review were:
  - BA in Symbiology (Honours and Pass)
  - MA in Symbiology
2. The Review Committee consisted of two external reviewers: Peter Smith, Guelph University and Frances Jones, Nipissing University and an internal reviewer, Jane Simpson, Department of Sociology.
3. The site visit occurred on February 28 - March 1, 2013.
4. The Final Assessment Report was approved by Senate on December 4, 2013.
5. The reviewers assigned the following Outcome Category:
  - Category 2, "Good Quality."
6. The next review of the undergraduate and graduate programs in Symbiology will be in 2020/21.

## B. Recommendations

The reviewers provided XX recommendations.

### Recommendation #1

Conduct a Curriculum Review to clearly identify a course portfolio which could be taught by faculty at graduate and undergraduate levels in a two academic year (6 term) rotation.

#### ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee encourages the Department to undertake an ongoing process of curriculum review and revision, utilizing the curriculum map which was prepared for the cyclical review.

#### Implementation Plan (First Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean to report by end of academic year 2013/14

Actions Taken	Year Action Started	Year Action Completed
Action #1 Meetings of Curriculum Committee	2013/14	2013/14
Action #2 Review curriculum	2013/14	2013/14
Action #3 Post 2014/15 courses	2013/14	2013/14

#### Explanation of Actions Taken, Status and Results:

Provide text explanation of the above "Actions Taken", provide more detail, status of implementation and the results. Please do not use proper names (use position names instead) or abbreviations (unless they are spelt out the first time). Please provide dates for events.

(Continue in the same way with each subsequent recommendation)

## C. Unit Summative Analysis and Evaluation

The Unit will answer the following questions:

1. To what extent has the Unit achieved the improvements suggested by the reviewers?
2. What overall impact has it had on the Unit's programs?
3. Is the Unit adopting a process of continuous quality improvement for its programs?
4. How well do the programs now align with Brock University strategic priorities?
5. How does this review and its results position the programs as the Unit moves into the next review cycle?

## D. ARC Final Summary

ARC will prepare this part of the report.

### Instructions

The quality assurance process described in the IQAP is intended to foster an environment of continuous quality improvement in all aspects of Brock's programs based on self-assessment and peer evaluation. Units participating in the cyclical review process have benefitted from the exercise in terms of improvements to the academic quality of their programs, alignment with Brock University strategic goals and viability at the provincial level.

The Four-Year Report is mandated in the IQAP as a final step in the cyclical review process. It will be made public by posting on the University's Quality Assurance web-site. It serves a dual purpose by providing an important summative document of progress since the past review and as a foundation for the next cyclical review.

#### Section A - Summary of Review

This section will be filled out by Office of the Provost.

#### Section B - Recommendations

This section must be completed by the Unit for each of the Reviewers' recommendations.

- Please refer to the Final Assessment Report (FAR) and previous Yearly FAR Implementation Reports when completing this section.
- Each Recommendation and Implementation Plan presented in this section must be taken **verbatim** from the Senate approved Final Assessment Report.
- In the section entitled "Actions Taken" all actions that address a specific recommendation, whether completed or still in progress, should be listed.
- The section entitled "Explanation of Actions Taken, Status and Results" should provide a text description of the specific actions taken in the implementation of the recommendation, the present status of the recommendation, and the results of the listed actions in bringing about improvements to the program. Any external constraints which

affected progress should be explained here, as well as the reasons for any actions not taken.

### **Section C - Summative Analysis and Evaluation**

This section will be completed by the Unit. It will contain an over-all analysis of the impact of the review on the programs offered by the Unit and answer the following questions:

1. To what extent has the Unit achieved the improvements suggested by the reviewers?
2. What overall impact has it had on the Unit's programs?
3. Is the Unit adopting a process of continuous quality improvement for its programs?
4. How well do the programs now align with Brock University strategic priorities?
5. How does this review and its results position the programs as the Unit moves into the next review cycle?

### **Section D - ARC Final Summary**

This section will be completed by ARC after reviewing Sections B and C. In its response, ARC will assess the following:

1. whether the Reviewers' Recommendations have been addressed satisfactorily.
2. whether the Unit has established a direction for next steps as it prepares for the next review cycle.
3. whether the Unit has achieved a broad-based, reflective and forward-looking self-assessment.