Library and Information Technology Program Review
Faculty of Professional Studies

Dean's Summary

Submitted by:
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Accepted by:
Senate in June 2015
Academic Planning and Priorities Committee in May 2015

Based on the Report of the External Review Committee of the University of the Fraser Valley Library Information Technology Department programming (LbIT) my meeting with this Committee and the Response to the Report from the LbIT Academic Unit, I would like to mreview to shape the vision of the LbIT programming o

As part of the review process, the LbIT Department complet information was provided to the Review Team. The self st Department administrative student descriptions for survey g community on the effectiveness of the LbIT Department an their challenges and opportunities. In addition, th e Extern day site visit and met with a number of stakeholders inclu staff members of FV senior administration and members o

Overall, the sit e visit and subsequent review was quite positi of the faculty, staff students, programming, and of FV

As the ERC states:

> The ERC is impressed with the sustained excellenc
> po grams; the superior nature of student learning e
> student engagement; the exceptional quality of facul
> professional associations and conferences; the very
> beyond the unit; and the efficient implementation c

Another factor to consider is the unfortunate situation the program had been in prior to this review. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the faculty complement was reduced to approximately 1.5 people. Completing work outside of the classroom became challenging as the tasks fell to the same people time and time again. With this coming academic year, the Department will for the first time in 2 ½ years, be at its full staffing complement.

The committee felt strongly that the "material resources and facilities available to support student learning and the key learning objectives of the two LibIT programs are adequate." However, the committee felt there is room for improvement and suggests improved resources such as "a new student lab and access to more classroom space and larger classrooms. In particular, better technologically equipped classrooms and better resourced, "Student Resource Room."

This coming Fall, the LibIT Student Resource Room will be relocating to C Building (where the faculty and staff now reside) so as to be situated closer to the faculty and staff. This move will also see upgrades to the existing resources and computer technology that currently exists in the resource room in A Building.

The Post-Diploma Certificate is currently run jointly as between the LibIT Department and Continuing Education. The ERC supports the recommendation of the LibIT Department to bring the administration and funding of the Certificate Program into the LibIT Department.

(b) Program Administration

The ERC were extremely impressed with the Department Assistant, Noreen Dragani, stating, "the current Instructional Assistant support staff member is exceptional. Her personal knowledge, experience, and commitment to the departmental programs are commendable and ensure that students benefit from a supportive and caring learning environment."

In referring to the feedback provided by students in the student satisfaction survey, it was commented, "Noreen Dragani should be cloned, so that every university program can be as well coordinated."

However, similar to the LibIT faculty complement, it is the view of the ERC that the Department is under resourced and that "additional administrative support be added to the complement to better advise students and meet the needs as a result of growth. "

While we once again recognize the needs that accompany potential growth, one thing that was not shared with the ERC was the development of the new central advising model. With this new model in place, some of the pressure currently experienced by advisors in a Department such as LibIT, will be alleviated.

As mentioned previously, the ERC is supportive of the idea of the LibIT Department integrating within

7. Provision of dedicated up-to-date computer lab
    Dependent upon existing and future institutional infrastructure priorities and initiatives

8.

22. Develop undergraduate degree program that ladders from Diploma Program
    Requires further discussion with School of Business

23. Explore departmental unit renaming in view of changing information management environment.
    Ongoing. More discussion to occur following integration with the School of Business

24. Investigate feasibility of closer association with UFV School of Business
    Discussions are ongoing; projected to occur in the 2016-2017 academic year

25. Support cross-faculty and collaborative initiatives i.e. development of team-taught courses between LibIT and the School of Business
    Discussions are ongoing. Potential course delivery in Fall 2016

26. Provision of increased financial support [for] research time ["urgently required"]
    Dependent upon existing and future institutional infrastructure priorities and initiatives; current release time given

27. Bring administration and funding of the cost-recovery Certificate Program into the LibIT Department from Continuing Studies
    See item 21 above

28. Increase FTE support for sessional lesson planning and course development