

Mathematics and Statistics

Graduate and Undergraduate Review

Year 3 (2023) - FAR Implementation Report

(reviewed 2017-19)

Recommendation #1

Solidify the current Master's program and possibly create a new Master's program

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: Department

Responsible for resources: Department

Responsible for implementation: Department

Timeline: Dean of Mathematics and Science to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three*
Action #1 Submit request for 3 faculty positions outlined in the Self-Study.	Department	C		
Action #2 Begin planning a new MSc in Data Science.	Department	T	D	O

Comments 2021:

The Department was able to hire 3 new faculty. This will solidify the current MSc program and allow the Department to plan for a new MSc program in Data Science.

Comments 2022:

The Department applied for and received competitive funding from the Provost to begin developing a Professional MSc program in Data Analytics. The Department also submitted an application for a CRC (NSERC) position in Data Analytics. These two initiatives, along with the recent approval of the joint PhD program in Intelligent Systems and Data Science with COSC, have occupied the Department's time. The Department will move forward next year with planning a MSc program in Data Science.

Comments 2023:

A group of faculty in the Department is continuing to work on the plan to develop a Professional MSc program in Data Analytics.

Recommendation #2

Find a strategy to keep track of students' employment information after their graduation.

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: Department

Responsible for resources: Department

Responsible for implementation: Department

Timeline: Dean of Mathematics and Science to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three*
Action #1 Create a plan to track information about graduates of the Department's BSc and MSc programs.	Department	T	T	O

Comments 2021:

The Department's Admin Assistant is implementing a plan to track information about graduates of the BSc and MSc programs, in coordination with Alumni Services. This information will be displayed on the Department's webpages.

Comments 2022:

The plan is being developed and will be implemented as time permits.

Comments 2023:

The development was paused because the Administrative Assistant, who was in charge of the plan, left the Department and the new Administrative Assistant is still busy learning Departmental workflow and procedures.

Recommendation #3

Create a collegial environment and adopt a common long-term vision for the department.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted for consideration. The Committee expects that the Department is best positioned to determine strategies to improve collegiality and a common vision.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving: Department
 Responsible for resources: Department
 Responsible for implementation: Department
 Timeline: Dean of Mathematics and Science to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three*
Action #1 Discuss and approve improvements to the Department’s existing Rules of Procedure so that governance is more transparent, consultative, inclusive and accountable.	Department	T	T	D
Action #2 Get advice from the Dean’s office and HRE on steps to promote and support the University policies for a respectful workplace and collegial behaviour.	Department	T	T	C
Action #3 Add a department rule stating that all committees, including the Department Assembly, will keep minutes that will be posted to a Sharepoint folder; and that all committees will submit to the Department Assembly a report every term on their	Department	T	O	C

MATH-3 Year Report

<p>Action #4 Hold a department meeting to develop a long- term vision.</p>	<p>Department</p>	<p>T</p>	<p>D</p>	<p>D</p>
--	-------------------	----------	----------	----------

Comments 2021:

The Rules of Procedure Committee has outlined a plan for item #1 and the first set of rule changes have been approved at the end of Fall term. More rule changes will be made in the coming terms until the plan is completed. Some rules deal directly with item #2. The Dean’s office and HRE are engaged in steps to review and monitor the working environment within the Department. The Fall departmental meeting went smoothly and was collegial.

For item #3, the Chair and the Admin Assistant have finished organizing a SharePoint folder for all departmental documents. In Fall term, committees made a verbal report on activities to the Department Assembly. Starting Winter term, committees will be posting a report on activities and archiving minutes of meetings.

Regarding item #4, two new hires are in place in the Department starting at the end of Fall term, and a third new hire will start on July 1. Once these hires are settled, the Department can begin to discuss a long-term vision.

Comments 2022:

Additional sets of rules on governance and collegiality were formulated by the Rules Committee, with input from BUFA, and approved by the Department.

The Dean’s office has continued to monitor the working environment. HRE will be presenting recommendations for improving the collegiality and atmosphere in the Department.

After the HRE recommendations have been implemented, the Department can begin to discuss a long-term vision.

Comments 2023:

The HRE recommendations were implemented. The Department has had two interim external Chairs and will be electing an internal Chair to start July 1, 2023. It will be up to the new leadership to plan and implement the development of a long-term vision.

Recommendation #4

Create a series of weekly or bi-weekly seminars.

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: Department
 Responsible for resources: Department
 Responsible for implementation: Department
 Timeline: Dean of Mathematics and Science to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three*
Action #1 Create a weekly or bi-weekly seminar series.	Department	D	D	D

Comments 2021:

Due to the covid pandemic and the switch to on-line work from March 2020 to the present, in addition to a significant cut to the operating budget, the Department is still in the stage of planning. After Winter term is over, the Department will complete a plan to put in place for Fall term 2021.

Comments 2022:

The issues in 2021 have continued in 2022. The Department will aim for a plan starting in Fall term 2022.

Comments 2023:

This item was placed on hold because the focus of the interim external Chairs was governance issues.

Recommendation #5

Increase the visibility of department at the provincial and national level.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee expects that the Department is best-placed to determine strategies to increase the visibility of the Department.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving: Department

Responsible for resources: Department

Responsible for implementation: Department

Timeline: Dean of Mathematics and Science to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Actions	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three*
Action #1 Support efforts by faculty members to host major research workshops/conferences at Brock.	Department	T	T	O
Action #2 Continue to nominate faculty and staff for internal awards at Brock.	Department	O	T	C
Action #3 Nominate faculty and staff for National awards as appropriate.	Department	T	T	O

Comments 2021:

In Winter 2021, a faculty member received the Dean’s Distinguished Research Award and a staff member received the Student Experience, Recruitment and Outreach Award. These FMS awards will help to build a foundation for members to apply for Brock awards and ultimately National awards as appropriate.

Comments 2022:

A faculty member has been nominated for the Dean’s Distinguished Research Award.

Comments 2023:

The nomination process for FMS awards has been changed by the new Dean and no longer resides with the Chair. There is no formal process in place which allows Departments to make nominations.

Recommendation #6

Engage a Canada Research Chair, Tier II, in Data Science

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside the jurisdiction of the Committee. However, the Committee recognizes that the Department is open to the possibility and encourages any efforts to advocate through normal channels for such a position.

Implementation Plan

Recommendation not accepted.

Comments 2021:

In 2020, the Dean requested that all departments prepare and submit a plan for future faculty positions. The Department’s plan consisted of proposals for two positions, including one in Data Science. In Fall 2020 and Winter 2021, the Associate Dean for Research convened meetings of Chairs and Directors to discuss a strategy for responding to an anticipated call for CRC proposals by the VP Research. The Department Chair advocated for a CRC position in Data Science.

Brock very recently announced a call for the next round of CRC positions, and the Department will submit a proposal in the area of Data Science (without precluding the possibility of other proposals.)

Comments 2022:

The Department re-applied for a CRC position in Data Science in a new round of CRC proposals.

Comments 2023:

The Department’s previous applications were unsuccessful. The Department will incorporate this item into future long-range planning as appropriate.