

18- MONTH FOLLOW-UP REPORT to the FAR-IP for PhD in Biomolecular Sciences in the School of Natural Sciences

PREAMBLE: *(indicate when the Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan was provided to Senate and what circumstances (change in faculty, change in Dean, change in budget, etc.) have impacted the status updates for the recommendation).*

There were 10 recommendations from ACAPLAN (Jan 2021) following the Laurentian University's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP).

Complete the following chart by including the information, which was presented in the report submitted to Senate and providing a comprehensive Status Update for each recommendation.

Recommendation	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility for Leading Follow-up	Timeline	Status Update
1. Create a course in "Metabolic Physiology" and as a core area of study—a 6000-level course developed in Methods/Statistics.	i. Create Course Development Committee ii. Create BMOL 6308 Metabolic Physiology, BMOL 6409 Methods/Statistics, as well as a new "Special Topics" course and submit to CELP	Program Coordinator with Dean of SEA	June 2021	An ad hoc committee was formed following ACAPLAN's report and recommendation. A new BMOL 6301E - <i>Selected Topics in Biomolecular Sciences</i> was developed and is currently being offered this academic year. This new Selected Topics course allows the flexibility within the program to offer specialized topics that can be tailored to students' needs. Due to resourcing, a Methods/Statistics course will need to be developed in collaboration with other

				graduate programs.
2. Eliminate non-tenured faculty as supervisors	Develop a formal policy concerning supervision by non-tenured faculty as well as action to be taken when a supervisor who is a tenured leaves the university	Program Coordinator with Dean SEA and Dean GS	June 2021	Appointment of all faculty within the BMS program was reviewed and non-tenured/tenure track faculty members can no longer serve as primary supervisors.
3. Advertise program beyond the university	Work with Laurentian's Marketing unit on a plan and then implement, using some of the funds set aside by Dean SEA	Program Coordinator with ED, Communications, Marketing and Government Relations	September 2021	The Director of the School of Natural Sciences (SoNS) along with the Dean of Science, Engineering and Architecture (SEA) will promote and advertise the BMS PhD program through the School SoNS and Faculty SEA social media and websites. The SoNS is promoting the program via its social media outlets (Facebook, Instagram, Threads and X). Graduate studies will also promote the program at Graduate Fairs and through the Grad Studies Viewbook. The program is also working with LU Communications and Marketing to help advertise the program beyond the University.
4. A minimum funding level should be set for students in the BMS program.	<p>i. Raise GTA support above \$13,000</p> <p>ii. Scholarships should be developed and established to attract external students</p>	Dean of Graduate Studies	June 2021	The program currently has a minimum level of stipend funding set at \$20,000. ACAPLAN is requesting GTA support to be increased for BMS PhD students. GTAs are established as a collective bargaining agreement between Laurentian University and Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 5011. The Program agrees with ACAPLAN that increasing GTA funding will help in recruiting competitive graduate students into the program.

5. Recruit more Indigenous students	Develop policy enabling current Indigenous student to progress from bachelor's to the doctoral level	Program Coordinator with Dean SEA and Associate Vice-President, Academic & Indigenous Programs	June 2021	The BMS program will work with initiative led by LU administration (Associate VP, Academic and Indigenous Programs and Dean SEA) to help recruit more Indigenous students to LU and the BMS PhD Program.
6. Create student handbook outlining program expectations, policies and processes, important dates and key contacts	i. Compile this information from existing sources ii. Examine possibility of publishing contents of handbook on Web.	Program Coordinator	September 2021	Graduate Studies is currently developing a student handbook with key policies, processes and important dates. The program has updated the BMS website to include a link-out page for students to access program expectations, policies (comprehensive exam guidelines, LU policy on academic integrity) scholarship deadlines.
7. Create an annual BMS research day should be held where all participating faculty and students attend	i. Decide whether to create a specific symposium for the BMS program during Research Week ii. Organize day's agenda and then consult Dean about funding for incidentals	Program coordinator with Dean GS and Dean SEA	September 2021	A planning committee has been established to ensure an Annual BMS Research Day is organized each year to celebrate and profile the research conducted by graduate students in the program. During the LU insolvency crisis, the BMS Research Day was incorporated into the Northern Health Research Conference. Moving forward, the BMS Research Day will be part of the LU Research Week.
8. Encourage Laurentian to review and negotiate fees with Perdue to assist all research programs and provide stability to the core facility	Bring issue to SEA Faculty Council for support then join Dean in lobbying Vice-President Administration	Program Coordinator	June 2021 and ongoing	Following the academic restructuring caused by the insolvency crisis of 2021, the PCAF is now the responsibility of the Dean of SEA.

9. Assist the library is explaining the program's resource needs	i. Speak up about issue at faculty council meetings ii. Lobby Vice-President Administration	Program Coordinator coordinating program members	June 2021 and ongoing	The program has discussed the program's needs with the Interim University Librarian and will work with the library to ensure program needs are met.
10. Embed library's Liaison Librarian in program	With each incoming cohort, invite the program's liaison librarian to speak to students on how library can support them and include discussion on how to get published in a world of predatory journals	Program Coordinator with Liaison Librarian	June 2021 and ongoing	The Liaison Librarian has been invited to present a session on library resources for each BMOL course.