

**Curriculum Renewal**

**Annual Summary Report**

**School of Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences**

**(SENRS)**

Prepared by:

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for Linda Skilton, Dean SENRS

**Urban Forestry**

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| **Program:** Urban Forestry­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­ **Co-ordinator:** Joe Outram **Date:** February 29, 2012 |
| **B. Curriculum Strengths and Challenges**  Summarize the curriculum strengths and challenges identified by the team. |
| **Strengths:**   * High percentage of learning is hands on, in field. * Excellent employment rate. 100% in 2007/08. * Excellent KPIs * Program well recognized and held in high esteem by industry. * Faculty remains current within industry in terms information, techniques and contacts. * Urban Forestry Technician diploma beginning September, 2012   **Challenges:**   * High cost of delivery due to high lab time and requirement of technical support. * Constant turnover of part time staff |
| **C. Action Plan**    Identify priority actions for the next year and the rationale for their inclusion. For each, indicate the project lead, and the proposed timelines for completion. |
| * Encourage Fleming College to hire more full time Faculty to accommodate growing and evolving programs. * Continue to scan industry for changes and updates. * Monitor student input on program and curriculum and adjust as necessary. * Continue to update curriculum as new information, equipment, technology and techniques become available. |
| **D. Deferred Actions**  Record any issues that will need to bemonitored, researched, or deferred for future action. |

**Common Themes**

1. **Infrastructure Needs**

All programs indicated there is a need to update existing equipment and facilities. Several programs share equipment and with the increased use and demand for these pieces, there is extensive wear and tear on most of the equipment. The cost to repair a lot of the equipment is expensive. Storage space also continues to be an issue.

***Action:***

Continue to advocate for capital equipment and a space plan that includes a designed area to store, sign out, monitor and maintain existing equipment.

1. **Industry Support**

Various members of the Advisory Committees have requested lists of needed equipment to see if they could donate any of their surplus pieces.

***Action:***

Coordinators have to be proactive to make the requests for donations.

1. **Program Quality**

It was identified that some of the protocols and procedures used, and the supporting materials, are outdated. There is the challenge to find time to update curriculum at the same time as moving forward to adopt corporate initiatives such as blending learning. There is also a need to develop new skills around assessment and evaluation, and the use of new technology in the learning environment.

***Action:***

Faculty are making a conscious effort to ensure relevance and currency in their curriculum, but they need professional development to incorporate different learning methods. There needs to be more support for individual assistance to redesign curriculum and its assessment, to embrace the advancement of technology, and to learn how and where to use technology.

1. **Human Resources**

There has been an increased use of contract faculty, primarily due to enrollment growth, which can potentially compromise program content as the faculty may change from semester to semester. There have also been several retirements, whose specialized skill sets needs to be replaced.

***Action:***

Develop a hiring plan to replace the skill sets required as SENRS moves forward to start new programs and update existing ones. Five fulltime faculty and one full time instructor are in the approved plan for 2012/13.

1. **Articulation/Transfer Agreements**

Program coordinators continue to be active in engaging in opportunities to create articulation agreements across colleges and universities. With increased competition for a shrinking student population, and the desire of employers to have graduates with both technical, applied skills as well as advanced learning, the environment is favourable to create more pathways for learning.

***Action:***

Coordinators identify potential articulation opportunities to the Chair, who will make the connections and initiate dialogue to establish agreements. Once established, a clear visual aid for marketing these opportunities to students needs to be created.