1 YEAR PPR FOLLOW-UP REPORT

Last Updated: March 13, 2020

Graduate Program:	**Environmental Applied Science and Management, Master and PhD**
Peer Review Team:	Dr. John Robinson (University of Toronto) Dr. Peter Victor (York University) Dr. Myer Siemiatycki (Ryerson University)
Site Visit:	May 1 & 2, 2017
PRT Report:	May 23, 2017
Program Response:	October 26, 2017
YSGS Response:	November 3, 2017
PPR Approved by Senate:	May 1, 2018
1 Year Follow Up Report:	March 13, 2020

As mandated by Ryerson Senate Policy 126: Periodic Program Review of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs[1], within one year of Senate approval of the PPR, a 1 Year Follow-Up Report is to be submitted to the Faculty Dean or Dean of Record and the Vice-Provost and Dean, YSGS, on the progress of the implementation plan and any further recommendations. This follow-up report will be also be reviewed by Programs and Planning Committee, YSGS Council, and finally Senate. The PPR Report to Senate may also include a date(s) for subsequent Follow-up Reports.

What follows are the PRT recommendations, the program responses, YSGS responses, and the implementation plan, including the 1-year follow-up status reports by the program.

The recommendations are divided into two broad categories: academic and administrative/financial and for simplicity, all of this information is presented in the form of tables.

[1] https://www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/senate/policies/pol126.pdf

Ryerson University

Environmental Applied Science and Management
Yeates School of Graduate Studies

Implementation Plan
Academic Recommendations

PRT Recommendation	EnSciMan Proposed Action	Responsibility to Lead Follow Up	Original Timeline for Addressing Recommendation	EnSciMan 1-Year Follow-Up/Update – March, 2020
1) Increase the number of cross-appointed faculty.	YSGS has submitted an application for increased faculty cross-appointments and we await a decision. The GPD has been in communication with the Associate Dean during Fall 2017 to discuss priority hires. If the proposal is effective, the program will work with the Dean's office, and the relevant academic departments to establish a recruitment and hiring process	Graduate Program Director, Ryerson EnSciMan Graduate Program	This is dependent upon the timing of a decision (regarding the proposal put forward by YSGS). If approved, the program anticipates a hiring process beginning Fall 2018 at earliest. If multiple cross-appointed hires are approved, these hires may be staggered over more than 1 year.	The Vice-Provost and Dean of YSGS, continues discussions with the Provost on proposals regarding cross-appointments or secondments.
2) Explore the use of faculty secondments.	Action on secondments will be decided, pending the decision on the YSGS proposal (see above)	Graduate Program Director, Ryerson EnSciMan Graduate Program	The timeline is contingent on the timeline of a decision on the YSGS proposal	As above, discussions continue between the Associate Dean and provost
3) Implement a methods requirement for MASc. students.	Currently, we are surveying MASc students to determine appetite and what they would wish to see in such a course. We will offer initially as a Special Topics course to allow refinement, ultimately embedding as core curriculum	EnSciMan Admissions and Studies Committee – chaired by GPD	Course is to be developed deliberately in 2018-2019, and offered as a Special Topics course in Fall 2019; expected to become a core course in 2020-2021	We launched a series of methods modules (3-hour blocks) to allow Masters students to choose, *à la carte*, those that would be most beneficial to their research. These modules launched Winter term, 2020. They may become the basis of a Methods course in time, where a student could elect a number of modules to satisfy requirements for a single course credit

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4) Broader societal and systems perspective in the curriculum.	Initiate a new mid-PPR curriculum review to consider this, among other curriculum matters	EnSciMan Admissions and Studies Committee – chaired by GPD	Beginning Spring-Summer, 2018	Discussions have begun, but we will launch a broader curriculum review in 2020-2021
5) Utilize the course substitution process for ES9001 for PhD students who have already completed ES8920.	This is now being done	EnSciMan GPA initiates, approved by GPD	Completed Fall 2017	Done
6) Provide explicit guidance for Summer supervision of the program's students.	EnSciMan Admissions and Studies Committee is discussing introducing a new milestone requiring students to have established a committee, and to have provided the committee a draft proposal at end of Winter term, first year. Needs approval of program council	EnSciMan Admissions and Studies Committee – chaired by GPD	Have proposal ready for discussion next Program Council meeting, implementation Winter 2019.	Done
7) Explore the use of blended courses and the creation of a Professional Master's diploma (PMDip).	The program will await the outcome of the proposal regarding cross-appointments, which is necessary to provide the capacity	EnSciMan Admissions and Studies Committee – chaired by GPD	Of the actions discussed on this list, the creation of the PMDip has relatively low priority. There is no established timeline, but we will discuss the option in Program Council to explore the appetite within the program.	There remains limited appetite for this initiative

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8) Expand engagement with partner organizations.	Establish conversations with interdisciplinary research centres to better explore opportunities for engagement. Many of the EnSciMan members are actively engaged in one or more of these centres	EnSciMan Program Membership Committee – chaired by GPD. The GPD will continue to have discussions with executives of research centres to determine where EnSciMan can integrate with those centres.	ongoing	We have begun co-sponsoring events with research centres and other graduate programs to deepen engagement
9) Move ES8930 (the Master's seminar course) to MASc. Semester 2 of Year 1.	In 2018-2019, the course will be offered to 2nd year students in Fall semester, and to first year students in Spring	GPD, with support of Admissions and Studies Committee	2018-2019 academic year	The seminar course is more focused on articulation of research, and not about developing a research plan. We now require formulation of a supervisory committee. The research proposal is developed by end of Semester 2, Year 1. Given this, there is no plan to change the timing of the seminar course
10) Increase cross-listed courses and team teaching.	We have provided a letter of support for a new graduate program in Occupational Health and Safety that would involve cross-listing of several EnScMan courses	GPD, in concert with GPDs of other graduate programs	ongoing	The curriculum committee is exploring courses offered in other programs, and courses offered in EnSciMan that might be cross-listed.
11) Create an External Advisory Council.	Bring forward for discussion at next Program Council meeting	GPD	Fall, 2018	No action yet

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12) Require the formation of MASc. committees in Year 1.	Implement, pending approval of Program Council	GPD, with support of Admissions and Studies Committee	Implementation for 2018-2019 academic year	Done
13) Update the program's review of competing programs.	Revisit currciula of competing programs, updating previous review	GPD, with support of Admissions and Studies Committee	Spring – Summer 2018	Ongoing and is part of the broader curriculum review that is being planned.
14) Reword program documentation to better reflect breadth of the environmental sector.	This will be done as part of updating content and structure of our materials, particularly optimizing for phone browsing	EnSciMan Admissions and Studies Committee – chaired by GPD	Summer, 2018	Ongoing, with current focus on updating content and optimization of the program website.

Administrative and Financial Recommendations

PRT Recommendation	EnSciMan Proposed Action	Responsibility to Lead Follow Up	Original Timeline for Addressing Recommendation	EnSciMan 1-Year Follow-Up/Update – March 2020
15) Explore creating a Council of Deans to coordinate engagement in EnSciMan.	Discuss further with YSGS the mechanism for bringing matters specific to EnSciMan to this council's agenda	GPD – in conversation with YSGS Dean and Associate Deans	Spring, 2018	Currently GPD participates in Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Sciences, and YSGS GPD Council Meetings. There are currently 4 Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs in YSGS, involving different faculties. All Ryerson University Deans meet regularly. Issues pertaining to EnSciMan and other interdisciplinary graduate programs are raised by the Vice-Provost and Dean of YSGS with the Deans of other Faculties as needed.
16) Extend multi-year funding commitments to students.	Maintain conversation with YSGS to consider options	GPD – in conversation with YSGS Dean and Associate Deans	ongoing	This issue has been raised with the Vice-Provost and Dean of YSGS. The university is currently unable to make multi-year funding commitment.

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17) Make strong efforts to increase student funding.	Continue conversations with departments regarding commitments of RA and GA positions for EnSciMan. Engage with Deans, perhaps through Council of Deans or individual meetings, support for fourth year PhD students.	GPD, YSGS Associate Deans	ongoing	We continue conversations with departments and faculties, and recognize that specific commitments to support of EnSciMan students will continue to be a mosaic
18) Establish common EnSciMan space.	While this is outside the purview of the program, we will continue conversations with University space planning regarding initiatives to find space suitable for co-housing all EnSciMan students	GPD, in conversation with YSGS Associate Deans and Space Planning	ongoing	Opening imminently in the 7th floor of DCC.
19) Consolidation of GPD and GPA offices in the same building.	No action to be taken at present. We await an outcome of the proposal currently under consideration	GPD will remain in conversation with YSGS Associate Deans regarding this proposal	unknown	GPA and GPD will hold office hours in the new space for EnSciMan students to improve student access, and to encourage students to make good use of the space
20) Increase the emphasis on events and communication.	We are in conversation with students regarding, not only the nature of events, but what factors will increase participation, to avoid the disappointing outcome of past initiatives; explore cohosting events with interdisciplinary research centres	GPD, in conjunction with executives of interdisciplinary research centres	ongoing	We are co-sponsoring a seminar series with Ryerson Urban Water and exploring other co-sponsorships to increase the number of relevant events for students without a redundancy in effort

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21) Implement stable Library funding.	No direct action to be taken, maintain dialog with resource librarians	EnSciMan Admissions and Studies Committee – chaired by GPD	ongoing	Beyond the jurisdiction of the program

Summary Statement/Conclusion: In conclusion, we thank the external reviewers and colleagues in Environmental Applied Science and Management for a very thorough assessment of the strengths and challenges of the Master and PhD programs. The PRT recommendations and EnSciMan's responses raise important points regarding the program, and the discussion of these will only have a positive development in the evolution of the program.