1 YEAR FOLLOW-UP REPORT

Last Updated: April 22, 2021

Graduate Program:	**Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (MEng, MASc, PhD)**
Peer Review Team:	Dr. Alidad Amirfazli (York University) Dr. Chi-Guhn Lee (University of Toronto) Dr. Murtaza Haider (Ryerson University)
Site Visit:	February 1 and 2, 2018
PRT Report:	March 29, 2018
Program Response:	June 7, 2018
YSGS Response:	June 11, 2018
PPR Approved by Senate:	November 6, 2018
1 Year Follow Up Report Due:	November 6, 2019

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

ACADEMIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Program Response	YSGS Response	Proposed Action	Responsibility to Lead Follow Up	Timeline for Addressing Recommendation	MIE 1 Year Follow Up	FEAS Faculty Dean Response
1. Organize courses around natural thematic subjects. This is important to satisfy the educational needs of the diverse graduate student population in the program.	Agreement. The MIE program notes that it already organizes courses around natural thematic subjects. The themes are: Thermofluidics, Solid Mechanics and Design, and Industrial Engineering.	YSGS supports the program response to each of these curriculum-focused issues (i.e., recommendations 1 – 6). YSGS notes that it will support the program as needed for any minor or major curriculum modifications, per Policy 127.	Completed				
2. Use directed reading courses to fill boutique gaps for very specialized topics.	Agreement. The MIE program notes that it offers a Directed Studies course (ME8135) for this purpose and will continue offering the		Completed				
3. Introduction of core courses to provide solid common competencies for graduates.	Taken under consideration. The MIE program notes that it did employ the model of “core courses” at the program’s inception. They were later dropped in favour of elective courses since it was concluded that the model does not match the level of diversity in research topics in this program. The GPC, however, will revisit this decision in the Fall 2018		GPC consideration	Associate Chair Graduate	Winter 2019	Consultation within program indicated that the current model serves a majority of graduate students in tailoring the courses to their needs and interests.	FEAS Graduate Studies Office supports MIE grad. program’s decision.

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4. Ensure that a sufficient and consistent number of courses are offered annually to avoid inconsistency in training.	Agreement. The MIE program notes that it offers close to 35 graduate courses each year. It also notes that close to 90% of these courses are repeated each year. The program will continue its ongoing efforts to offer a sufficient and consistent number of courses.		Continuing efforts	Associate Chair, Departmental Chair, Home Faculty Associate Dean for Graduate Studies	Ongoing	Ongoing	FEAS Graduate Studies Office supports MIE grad. program's efforts.
5. Courses that are popular among MEng students are recommended to be aligned with the needs of a practicing engineer and to have an enriched applied content.	Agreement. The MIE program notes that the majority of courses use specialized software used in industry.		Continuing efforts	Associate Chair Graduate, Departmental Chair, Home Faculty Associate Dean for Graduate Studies	Ongoing	Ongoing	FEAS Graduate Studies Office supports MIE grad. program's efforts.
6. The seminar course can be improved by including lectures on how to deliver a high-calibre scientific talk.	Agreement. The MIE program notes that it has invited guest speakers for a variety of topics including best practices in technical presentations. Nevertheless, will strive to do so more systematically.		Continuing efforts	Associate Chair Graduate	Ongoing	One lecture on best practices in technical presentation is included in the beginning of each semester.	FEAS Graduate Studies Office supports MIE grad. Program's efforts. We also ask the Program to encourage students to attend a

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7. To be able to develop actionable proposals around the above points, perhaps the MIE can consider striking a smaller and more nimble and focused graduate curriculum committee.	Agreement. The program notes that its Graduate Program Council (GPC) includes all faculty involved in graduate programs and graduate student representatives. The GPC, however, has a number of standing committees including Graduate Admissions and Studies, Awards and Scholarships, etc. The Curriculum committee is an ad hoc committee that is struck from time to time to deal with specific issues brought to the attention of GPC. As per the PRT's suggestion, the mandate and membership of this committee will be determined at the time the committee is constituted.	YSGS supports the program's response. As noted above, YSGS will support the program as needed for any minor or major curriculum modifications, per Policy 127. YSGS will also provide support to the program as needed if modifications to the GPC bylaws are required.	Completed				

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8. The PRT believes that if the department were to continue running the MEng program, it must consider improving the quality of the students it attracts to the program. Their academic preparation should be on par with those enrolled in the MASc program.	Taken under consideration. The GPC will consider this in the Fall 2018 semester. The MIE program does note, however, that the minimum GPA requirement for the MEng program is B, which is in line with all major universities in Ontario. The program also notes that the courses taught are not categorized based on students who take them (MEng or otherwise).	YSGS supports the program response. Should the program determine modifications to its admissions requirements are needed, YSGS will support the program, per Policy 127.	GPC consideration	GPC	Fall 2018	The number of exemptions on GPA is greatly reduced. The practice of allowing applicants to improve their GPA by taking undergraduate courses has been terminated.	FEAS Graduate Studies Office supports MIE grad. program's efforts. In addition, as a part of the FEAS' strategy on broadening the internationalization of the graduate studies, the MIE Program started admitting a number of international MEng students since the Fall 2019 (~15% of the domestic intake). As the international pool of applicant is considerably larger, selected applicants have excellent academic credentials.

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9. The Department should take steps to improve graduate student support as soon as possible. The minimum guaranteed funding should be increased for all students, particularly international students.	Agreement. The MIE program notes that the funding package for research students (MASc and PhD) has been updated since the visit and currently aligns with the visiting team's recommendation. All eligible PhD students will receive the same take home amount after fees are considered. The same holds for all MASc students.	YSGS supports the program response and encourages the program to continue to pursue opportunities to improve funding packages for its graduate students.	Continuing efforts	Associate Chair, Department Chair, FEAS Dean, FEAS Assoc. Dean Graduate Studies, Vice-Provost and Dean of YSGS	Ongoing	The funding package has been harmonized by FEAS and increases have been gradually implemented to match those of comparable graduate programs in Ontario.	In addition, FEAS Graduate Studies office has been increasing support for graduate students in preparation of applications for internal and external competitive scholarships in forms of workshops series (August for NSERC PGS-D, October for NSERC CGS-M, February for OGS/RGF)
10. The Department should offer opportunities for professional development to students by encouraging them to participate in international conferences.	Agreement. The MIE program notes that a number of professional development opportunities exist with the Faculty (FEAS) and the Graduate School (YSGS). The program also notes that it does provide funding for graduate student attendance at international conferences.	YSGS supports the program response.	Continuing efforts	Associate Chair, Department Chair, FEAS Dean, FEAS Assoc. Dean Graduate Studies, Vice-Provost and Dean of YSGS	Ongoing	New funding for travel has become available through FEAS Graduate Studies Office in the amount of $1000 per year for each graduate student who presents at the conference.	FEAS Graduate Studies Office supports MIE grad. program's efforts.

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11. The Department should consider the possibility of graduate students starting in January and May.	Agreement. The Program shares the view that a more streamlined admission process would be helpful. It should be noted that winter and spring admissions have always been possible on a case by case basis.	YSGS supports the program response. YSGS notes that winter and spring admissions are already possible on a case-by-case basis.	Discussions with YSGS	Associate Chair Graduate, FEAS Associate Dean Graduate Studies, YSGS Graduate Admissions office	Ongoing	As of January 2021, the program will move to 3-term admission for all degree streams.	FEAS graduate studies office has been supporting the program in admission of research students (MASc and PhD) in winter and summer. The commencement of the formal 3-term admissions process is welcome.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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12. The PRT recommends implementation of a formal process for scheduling equipment use services provided by technical staff.	Agreement. Following the strategic plans of the Faculty and the Department, these recommendations are being implemented.	YSGS supports the program response.	Completed				
13. The PRT believes that the number of staff members dedicated to responsibilities related to graduate students might be increased to provide better support to graduate students whose number is likely to expand in the future.	Taken under consideration. At the current level of enrollment, the staff numbers (Associate Chair Graduate Program and Graduate Program Administrator) seem to be adequate and in line to other graduate programs in FEAS. There are no plans for growth and increase in number of graduate students in the program under the next strategic plans, both at the Faculty and the university level.	YSGS supports the program response.	Department and FEAS Dean consideration	Department Chair, FEAS Dean	Winter 2019	No change.	FEAS Graduate Studies Office supports program's response. This office plans to closely follow should the workload for the Associate Chairs and Program Administrators increase with the 3-term admissions and expansion of intakes of international graduate students in all FEAS grad programs and will act accordingly.

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14. The Department should consider creating a new Associate Chair of Research position to streamline research among colleagues and provide mentorship to research graduate students.	Taken under consideration. This is being considered as a part of the Faculty and Department strategic plans. The program will consult with the Associate Dean, Research and Dean of FEAS.	YSGS supports the program response. It notes, however, that the creation of a new Associate Chair position is outside of its purview. YSGS encourages the program to work with the Dean of FEAS to explore this possibility.	Department and FEAS Dean consideration	Department Chair, FEAS Dean, FEAS Associate Dean Research and Partnership	Unknown	No change.	FEAS Graduate Studies Office supports program's response. It also notes that the creation of the new Associate Chair position is outside of its portfolio.
15. The Department may consider improving opportunities for social gatherings among faculty members and students.	Agreement. The MIE program notes that, currently, a number of social events are organized at the FEAS level specifically for graduate students, by the FEAS Graduate Students Ambassadors team, including: Orientation Networking & Social, Bowling, Pumpkin Carving, Pub Night, Archery Tag and BBQ. As for the Program, some faculty members attend weekly seminars and there is also opportunities for socializing at Awards Night. The Program will explore other faculty-student social events.	YSGS supports the program response and its efforts to improve the social cohesion of the department.	GPC discussion	Associate Chair Graduate, GPC	Fall 2018	Awards night includes graduate students.	FEAS graduate students Ambassadors initiative is still active, even during COVID situation, albeit remotely. In addition, since COVID related university lockdown in March 2020, there have been several town halls for graduate students organized by the MIE Associate Chair as well as with other FEAS graduate students, organized by the FEAS Associate Dean

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16. The PRT believes that the program must improve its efforts to engage with alumni.	Agreement. The recommendation is appreciated. While we do have sample information, a full database would be useful. This will be undertaken with support from the university.	YSGS supports the program response.	Part of curriculum review	Associate Chair Graduate Studies, Department and Dept. Chair, FEAS Development and Alumni Officer, Ryerson University Advancement	Ongoing	Nothing to report	FEAS Graduate Studies Office supports program's response. In addition, FEAS Dean's office, has been expanding its Advance team, which already has several new initiatives under development.

Summary Statement/Conclusion:
The external review and discussions arising from it has been helpful in further strengthening MIE graduate program. Many of the points have been addressed and the remainder are subject of ongoing efforts.