Executive Summary

Graduate Program in Human Kinetics
Cyclical review year 2012-2013

Prepared by the Graduate Program Evaluation Committee
Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Meeting of September 16, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Program Reviewed</th>
<th>Human Kinetics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Master of Arts (MA) in Human Kinetics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Master of Science (MSc) in Human Kinetics</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Master of Human Kinetics (MHK) with two concentrations: intervention and consultation in sport; sport management</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Human Kinetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fields</td>
<td>MA/PhD : Psychosocial sciences of sport physical activity and health</td>
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<td></td>
<td>MSc/PhD : Biophysical sciences of sport physical activity and health</td>
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<td></td>
<td>MHK : Management of sport and physical activity; intervention and consultation in sport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Evaluation</td>
<td>Good Quality with report to be submitted by December 31, 2016</td>
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PART A: MA, MSc and PhD in Human Kinetics

Significant Strengths of the Program

The evaluation process indicates that the programs are of very good quality and meet the standards of the discipline. Students are satisfied overall with their experience. A collegial environment was observed, which is important given the diversity of the research interests among faculty members and graduate students. The academic level of students admitted has risen since the previous evaluation. The programs benefit from a high calibre faculty, some of whom are world-class. Faculty members have a high success rate in attracting research funding, which is of benefit to graduate students in terms of improved infrastructure and stipends. International students are attracted to the program largely due to the calibre of the research being conducted. Very good training opportunities exist and graduate students benefit from the many productive industry/university interactions.

Areas for Improvement and Enhancement

The evaluation identified a few areas for improvement. Chief among these was the need to update the governance structure since this has not been done, even though the past decade has brought enormous growth in enrolment in addition to the introduction of an MSc, a PhD and a defined professional stream under the rubric of the MHK.

A lack of a comprehensive strategic plan and overall sense of direction was observed. A failure to be clear about the language of the courses was also noted. Courses that are advertised as bilingual are not in fact taught bilingually. There is a lack of transparency since students do not know in advance which courses are actually offered in one language or the other. The rationale for offering both an MA and an MSc was not altogether clear. Students expressed some confusion as to what financial support they were entitled to.
Recommendations

1. Develop a comprehensive strategic plan, clarifying the goals and rationale for each of the graduate programs in Human Kinetics.
2. Revise the governance structure of the programs and develop one appropriate for the current reality, taking account of current and predicted enrolment and the research directions to be pursued and strengthened. As part of this exercise, develop a staffing plan both for administrative support and for faculty.
3. Examine the course offerings in terms of language, and draw up a plan whereby courses advertised as bilingual will be truly bilingual.
4. Consider whether there is a need to continue to offer both an MA and an MSc.
5. Ensure that clear information is provided to students regarding financial support, including for attending conferences.
6. Develop a colloquium component to foster interactions among graduate students, faculty members and experts from outside the University.
7. Provide students with more information on career options and advise them as to what skill sets are needed to pursue those options.
8. Continue to monitor completion times and graduation rates.

PART B: Master of Human Kinetics (MHK)

Significant Strengths of the Program

The students receive a diverse education that incorporates a valuable internship experience. The program attracts a large number of applications from students with a strong academic record. The prospects for employment post-graduation are good.

Areas for Improvement and Enhancement

The language of the program and of the courses needs to be clarified, with a clear plan for staffing courses in the language in which they are advertised. A plan for the recruitment of more Francophone students needs to be developed. The place of the MHK program within the suite of programs offered needs to be articulated. This must be done as part of the strategic planning exercise that is underway within the SHK and the Faculty of Health Sciences. There should be a mechanism for bringing all the students in the MHK program together. The program should have a research component. Attention should be paid to ensure the quality of the internship experience, which should involve students in work appropriate to their level and relevant to their professional goals.

Recommendations

1. As part of the strategic planning process recommended under Part A, articulate the role of the MHK program and decide on how the program is to be resourced in terms of teaching by regular faculty members.
2. Ensure that the program has a research component appropriate for a master’s.
3. Monitor the internship placements to ensure that students are assigned work at an appropriate level and relevant to their professional goals.
4. Develop and implement a plan for recruiting Francophone students.
5. Examine the course offerings in terms of language and draw up a plan whereby courses advertised as bilingual will be truly bilingual.
6. Ensure that the information regarding financial support is clear.
7. Foster more intellectual exchanges among the students outside of their individual courses.

Implementation Plan

Authority
The director of the graduate studies in Human Kinetics, the chair of the School of Human Kinetics as well as the vice-dean (graduate studies) of the Faculty of Health Sciences are responsible for following up on these recommendations.

Calendar and deadlines
All of the recommendations presented under Part A and Part B above should be addressed in a report to be submitted no later than December 31, 2016.