

January 24, 2022

Institutional Summary and Response re Fall 2021 DQAB Program Review of the Associate of Science Degree

Introduction

Alexander College (AC) was pleased to host members of the Degree Quality Assurance Board (DQAB) program review panel during a virtual visit on Monday November 8, 2021. We appreciate the panel members' thoroughness and collegiality, and regard the entire review process as a constructive, informative experience that will further enhance Alexander College's ability to provide excellence in higher education for students from many cultural backgrounds and language abilities through internationally recognized university-transfer courses and degree programs, individual support services, and campus activities that foster local and global community engagement.

Summary of Overall Assessment

Describing Alexander College "as an established private college in the provincial college system," the program review panel noted that we are active in "BCCAT, the BC Deans of Arts and Science, and the BC Registrars Association," among other provincial bodies. The external panel further noted that "all courses in our Associate of Science (ASc) degree articulate with equivalent courses in the public system." Overall, the review team was "satisfied by the breadth and depth of course offerings in the ASc program" and believes that our students will be well-served by the "expanded classroom, lab, and library facilities" at our new Burnaby campus. Accordingly, Alexander College is pleased to report that the review panel recommended renewal of consent to offer the Associate of Science degree.

Institutional Response

True to its purpose, the program review panel sought to facilitate the ongoing growth and development of Alexander College's Associate of Science degree. Below, we present action items that comprise our institutional response to the panel's work:

1. An alternative grading scale for all Mathematics and Statistics courses has been discontinued as of the Winter 2022 semester. A common grading scale for all courses will be published on our website, in the next academic calendar, in all policy documents, and in mathematics and statistics course syllabi.
2. The Alexander College Curriculum Committee will continue to monitor the use of a standardized format for expressing course learning outcomes in all Curriculum Guides. The Curriculum Committee will also ensure that all Curriculum Guides are signed and dated.
3. To augment our existing academic standing policies and practices, the Registrar's Office will investigate a notification system for students whose term GPA falls between 1.50 and 2.00.
4. The advisory role of Alexander College's Standing Academic Standards Committee is being updated in policy.

5. We are in the process of implementing 10 new regular faculty positions in the Humanities and Social Sciences.
6. We are exploring ways to enhance on-campus work and meeting space for faculty.
7. We will continue to monitor the delivery of chemistry labs at our Vancouver campus to ensure ongoing adherence to all WorkSafeBC guidelines.

Conclusion

Alexander College is at an exciting time in its growth and development as an institution. We are proud to be part of the BC post-secondary system and will continue contributing to the strong reputation of the BC brand for higher learning.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marv Westrom
President and CEO
Alexander College