



23 December 2019

Dr Laurie Sykes Tottenham, Head
Department of Psychology
University of Regina

Dear Dr Sykes Tottenham,

My apologies for the delay in responding to the report of the Academic Unit Review team for the Department of Psychology.

Let me begin by affirming the reviewers' praise for the Department and its activities. There is no question that the Psychology program is indeed one of the "jewels" in the University's crown. Internationally recognized faculty members, annual success in recruiting highly qualified graduate students from across the country, high levels (the reviewers characterize them as "astounding" (3)) of grants and contracts, a very large undergraduate program, a successful Training Clinic – all of these accomplishments and more are identified and praised by the reviewers, who characterize the Department as a collegial and welcoming place to work. Individually and collectively, the faculty and staff in Psychology have every reason to be proud of this report.

Among the challenges noted by the review team are those facing a number of programs on campus – staffing, budget, and space. Given enrolment pressures and research successes, the Department perhaps experiences these challenges more acutely than most. Even with the addition of a new position for the Director of the Psychology Training Clinic, five successive years of flat or reduced government operating funding to the University have made it difficult to respond to such challenges to the degree that we would like. That said, I know that the Department will continue to press its case effectively to the Budget Advisory Committee in the Faculty of Arts and that, in turn, the Department's needs as transmitted by the Faculty will be thoroughly discussed by the Council Committee on Budget.

I note that the reviewers observed a perception that the Department's graduate teaching and supervision work were undervalued. Certainly the Department's graduate programs are, as affirmed above, among the strongest on campus, consistently able to draw highly qualified master's and doctoral students to Regina for excellent mentorship and supervision. This success should be celebrated both on and off campus, and the opportunities for these students to have clinical placements both in the city and elsewhere should be expanded.

Recent discussions with the Faculty of Science have focused on a possible move of the Department to that Faculty. Such a move has many implications for the Department and indeed for both Faculties. I appreciate the thoroughness with which colleagues in both Arts and Science are evaluating those implications, and look forward to learning in due course what the collegial determination will be.

To conclude, I want to congratulate the Department of Psychology on its many successes, and on an Academic Unit Review report that highlights those successes in so gratifyingly positive a manner. Again, the Department can be very proud.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Chase', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas Chase
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Copies: President and Vice-Chancellor
Vice-President (Research)
Dean of Arts
Dean of Science
Chair, CCAM
Chair, CCB