



Memorial

University of Newfoundland

Office of the Vice-President (Academic)
and Pro Vice-Chancellor

October 27, 2004

Dr. John Evans
Head, Department of Psychology

Dear Dr. Evans:

The Planning and Budget Committee discussed the academic program review of the Department of Psychology at its June 20th, 2004 meeting. We wish to express our appreciation to Psychology for its participation in this process. We would also like to apologize for the delay in passing along our comments.

The primary purpose of formal academic program reviews is to give units an opportunity to engage in formative self-assessment and to obtain the advantages of commentary and advice from experts from the discipline in question. The role of PBC is to monitor the process and develop a body of knowledge that is useful in making broad strategic recommendations and provide sound budgetary advice to the University. It is not the role of the Committee to determine allocations to individual units, but we can sometimes offer advice or make potentially useful observations.

An anticipated outcome of the process is a plan that clarifies how best to achieve the unit's objectives with the resources available to it. From the standpoint of the University, the process also provides a measure of accountability to the whole institution and the public that supports us. The following issues were raised by the Committee during the course of its discussions about these reviews.

- ▶ The Committee agrees that faculty renewal is a key issue for the Department and notes that it is being at least partially addressed by four new appointments with an additional one expected.
- ▶ There appears to be a feeling that the budget allocation process in the Faculty of Science is not as transparent or well-understood as it could be. This has led to some antagonism that might have been avoidable. The recommendation to create a separate Faculty seems to have been driven in part by frustration with the allocation of resources.
- ▶ The review of the laboratory program that has been suggested would likely prove beneficial.

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One of the expectations of this process is that the Department establish a forward looking vision and goals for the coming years. We would encourage you to engage in a series of discussions to build on the work that has been done during the APR process and to articulate this sense of direction more explicitly.

I offer my support and that of the Committee as you begin this important work. We look forward to seeing your one-year update in June, 2005.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H.E.A. Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "H".

H.E.A. Campbell
Vice-President (Academic)

c. Dr. R. Lucas, Dean of Science