CityUniversity in Canada

Summary of External Review Findings

Master of Education in School Counselling
June 2021

Key Recommendations

Panelists were provided with the *DQAB Degree Program Review Criteria and Guidelines* and an advanced draft of CityU's self-study to be submitted as an application for reviewed consent. Below is a list of main reflections and recommendations form the external reviewers.

External Review Panel

1. *Create a synthesized series of outcomes, starting with a mission statement of the program, followed by the new program learning outcomes. Having a visual that shows this is also recommended.*

2. *Strengthen relationship with the BC School Counsellors Association (BCCSA) for professional development, advocacy, and the role of the school counsellor.*

3. *Hire faculty from the public school system with current counselling experience. Initiate agreements with school districts where current school counsellors get release time from their districts to teach at City U.*

4. *CVs are not updated once a Faculty Associate is hired. . A current dossier of each faculty would help with any kind of review. This dossier could include the courses each faculty teaches, outside engagement, school counselling.*

5. *Because of the demand for school counsellors within districts, it is then recommended that CityU develop relationships with school districts for recruiting students for the program.*

6. *It is recommended that instruction on group dynamics and working in teams be included in the early courses content to support the cohort model and the amount of group projects.*

7. *Address the following current trends: Indigenization and decolonization and supporting Indigenous learners; trauma informed schools and pedagogy; and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.*

Progress: Actions & Initiatives

CityU activity in response to the feedback is detailed below.

CityU's Progress

1. The program established a vision and mission statement.

2. The president of the BCSCA is a member of the Master of Education in School Counselling Advisory Committee, which allows the program to strengthen its relationship with this organization. Furthermore, last year Tamara Dalrymple provided a presentation on comprehensive school counselling assessment at BCSCA's annual

conference, and this year Maria Stella is scheduled to present on incorporating self-care in personal and professional contexts.

3. The Master of Education in School Counselling program hires school counsellors to support students' practicum/internship throughout the two-year program.

4. The program has designed a CV template utilized by all faculty. The University will begin using Interfolio to create and house faculty profiles, which will allow for regular updates, automation of CV creation, and a uniform appearance of faculty CVs.

5. The program will continue to develop relationships with school districts to remain current with initiatives related to school counselling. Program leadership also regularly meets with districts to ensure that CityU's Master of Education in School Counselling students can more easily secure internship placements.

6. The program is supporting faculty and working with students to create a space for greater group cohesion by highlighting group dynamics, increasing awareness and discussing possible best practices.

7. The program and University at large are engaged in several DEI and decolonization curriculum initiatives, including:
    a. Inclusive Comp Exam: Revised comp exams to accommodate diverse learning and performance skills Apr 2023
    b. Indigenization and DEI consultation process (started in Sept 2021 ongoing)