



Program Review

Youth Justice Worker Program

Faculty: Child Family and Community Studies

Dean: Dr. Brian Thomason

Associate Dean: Gary Tennant

Review Leader: Doug Estergaard

Completion Date: June 13, 2013

Summary/Recommendations

Recommendation 1: ~~RM 1 7 0 I RM 2 5 5~~

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March 7, 2014

Dr. Kathy Denton
Vice-President, Academic and Provost
Douglas College
Coquitlam, B.C. V38 7X3

Dear Dr. Denton:

External reviewer's report on the Youth Justice Worker Program (YJWP)

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as an external reviewer for the YJWP program. I have read the program review document dated June 13, 2013, as well as other materials such as the curriculum guidelines. I have done my best to put fresh eyes on the review document, bearing in mind that people working at Douglas will be more familiar with specific aspects such as curriculum, course delivery, and faculty resources.

My general impression of this YJWP program is positive. The architects of the YJWP were able to attract instructors from both Criminology and Child & Youth Care, allowing for a cross-disciplinary character that serves students well. The provision of a practicum placement in the first semester and again in the final semester is laudable, partly because it allows the new cohort of students to become familiar with the field early on, providing valuable experience for those who persist with the program and possibly giving a more concrete sense of the work for students who may not be well-suited to this particular program. Securing block transfer arrangements is another attractive aspect of the diploma as is the mix of theory and practice in the youth field.

The retention figures are impressive, as are the enrolment figures with between 60 to 71 students enrolled each year from 2005 and 2012 (Table 4, page 6). The program also seems to fit with recent initiatives such as Community Connections and BCARIN (applied research and innovation) at Douglas.

<http://www.newwestnewsleaind>

I am unconvinced that CRIM 2255 should be dropped in order to offer CRIM 1170. Corrections is simply too vital a field for youth workers or other people working in criminal justice. It may be better to incorporate more Aboriginal/First Nations content into some existing courses to pursue an either/or (2255 or 1170) strategy here.

Recommendation 2: Pursue negotiation of transfer into the proposed Douglas College Criminology Degree at the third year level for YJW Diploma graduates.

This arrangement for transfer credit would be a worthwhile option for YJWD graduates wishing to continue on to a degree at Douglas College, also in keeping with the principle of broadening transferability of post-secondary credit.

This is a crucial aspect of the future of the program. It may be that some ~~middle~~ core instructors might be interested in a ~~post~~ retirement arrangement whereby they teach on a part time basis or serve as mentors. However, if they decide to remain fully retired, then hiring new instructors who are a good fit with the program curriculum and ~~ethos~~ ^{ethic} is a high priority. With the retirement of Cynthia Fulton and the deployment of John Fleming to the Associate Dean position in Humanities and ~~Social~~ ^{Social} Sciences there are truly big shoes to fill. There is considerable intellectual talent in the lower mainland and adjacent areas and I am hopeful that these openings would be filled by some very capable new hires at Douglas College.

