

## Department of Plant Science Response to the Cyclical Review committee's Advice and Recommendations

March 21, 2019

- Change the structure of the HUB and significantly increase staff for administration, technical and teaching support. This one important change would have a positive and significant impact on all aspects in the Department.

**Response: The HUB structure is decided by the faculty and not the department, however staff has increased and the structure has changed in 2018. After years of being severely understaffed, Plant Science has finally a new Admin Assistant (shared with the School of Human Nutrition) and a coordinator (shared with the whole faculty) to help with financial management, in addition to the department coordinator (shared with School of Human Nutrition).**

- Provide a suitable transition between old and new technical staff to maintain continuity of knowledge and service in the Department.

**Response: This is underway as best as the department can within the hiring and budget**

**Response: This will be valuable.**

- New faculty need an opportunity to develop their research program before starting to teach. Some faculty believe that this polic

they align with and provide a critical mass of courses to support the Department's fields of study and research.

**Response: This is underway and is continually revised.**

- Some undergraduate courses now offered in winter would be better offered in the Fall for pedagogical reasons and to take full advantage of campus facilities.

**Response: The newly established curriculum committee will address this and propose changes if deemed proper.**

- The policy on six-month progress tracking is excellent, and hopefully, these kinds of regular collaborative meetings might help resolve some of the tensions in the department. It is recommended to reduce the intake of international students at the graduate level. Ideally, the

- The treatment of Teaching Assistants needs to improve by providing proper guidance and sufficient resources to allow them to be effective teachers. This includes making sure that they work no more than their allotted hours and the Department adheres to the rules established by the Union and University.

**Response: There is currently no structure or general capacity in place within the department for teaching Teaching Assistants to be effective teachers. The department will work with the**