



## Bachelor of Health Sciences Quality Assurance Review

### Executive Summary

The BHS (PH) program at CBU is one of five public health inspection programs across Canada that meets the requirements of the Board of Certification of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI). The BSH (PH) program was reviewed by external reviewers with a report from them received in May 2011. This report is the Public Health Review Committee's response to their final report and recommendations.

**Recommendation 1.** Have a fixed budget for repair and timely replacement of equipment.

*Response:* This is a reasonable recommendation and we concur that it should be in place. In the past, equipment has been repaired and replaced as needed. It would be wise to have fixed budget and schedule for repair and replacement, as well as obtain new equipment as it is developed.

**Recommendation 2.** A field trip to a public swimming pool should be embedded in a course (PUBH 204 [Municipal Services] or PUBH 217 [Public Health Inspection] would be obvious candidates). Consider having a field trip to a sewage system installation as well.

*Response:* This is a reasonable recommendation and will be considered. Some difficulties have been met with in the past, but a new effort will be made to have this field experience for the students. In light of a revised scheduling for students and faculty, including more available time on Fridays, such off-campus visits ought to be less disruptive and more manageable.

**Recommendation 3.** All students should have access to academic program counseling or perhaps be advised of recommended prerequisites to more senior courses. Some students are out of phase with their four year or two-year schedules, especially the latter, because they have course credits from other universities. This results in faculty assuming that students have covered certain topics in other courses when that is not always the case.

*Response:* This is a reasonable recommendation and we agree that it is important. In the past faculty has provided advice, and have been flexible when the advice is not taken and students take courses that best fit their schedule rather than good pedagogy. It is difficult to strike the right balance with flexibility for the students' sake and requiring pre-requisites for the sake of the best learning environment. The curriculum committee will be given the mandate to consider this situation.

**Recommendation 4a.** You may have liability issues if students are transported in private vehicles on field trips. Please check with your insurer.

*Response:* This is reasonable and will be done.

**Recommendation 4b.** It was noted that Professional Development Funds are available only to some faculty in the negotiated contract.

*Response:* This is reasonable and will be requested from management. It would be wise to add an additional line to our budget to ensure that each faculty has enough educational opportunities to maintain professional certification.

**Recommendation 4c.** We also spoke about opportunities to make students more marketable.

*Response:* This has been discussed within our faculty and we have determined the need to add a minor in Occupational Health and Safety.

**Recommendation 5a.** The University might want to consider packaging courses together to create minors.

*Response:* This will be done with Occupational health and safety. Other opportunities will be discussed in the curriculum committee.

**Recommendation 5b.** Sometimes graduates' verbal skills are weak when they are first employed.

*Response:* We require many presentations and opportunities to practice these skills but will work to improve.

**Recommendation 5c.** Enforcement of environmental legislation was identified as a weak area of student knowledge.

*Response:* This is a reasonable recommendation and will be sent to the curriculum committee to determine how best to meet this.

**Recommendation 6.** You need to boost student knowledge in the environmental areas previously mentioned, beyond what you are already providing in the classroom. Have staff from an outside agency, such as Environment Nova Scotia come in on an annual basis.

*Response:* This is reasonable and it has been done. Efforts will be made to increase the number of guest lecturers to provide this outside influence.

**Recommendations 7.** Stemming from our discussions with the employers, we would recommend establishing a Curriculum Advisory Committee (in addition to the existing external advisory committee) that would specifically provide ideas that could be incorporated into courses. Employers have a vested interest in this initiative and we foresee that they would be eager to assist you in this capacity.

*Response:* This was discussed at the last advisory committee meeting, and we had decided that one member from the advisory committee will be invited to future "Curriculum Committee" meetings to provide the outside advice as suggested.

