

Final Assessment Report

Submitted by SUPR-

infrastructure and their ability to attract industry partners.

The reviewers are enthusiastic about the proposed new field in Cyber Forensics, commenting that it is both timely and relevant, and pleased that a new faculty member in this field.

The reviewers note that the faculty each supervise a fairly large number of students. The reviewers also noted that the department is currently in a position to hire a new faculty member.

There is some pressure on the current graduate course offerings in the graduate program. The MEng students are looking for more courses with a practical focus, while the research students are looking for more intensive theoretical courses. Having both sets of students in the same, double-numbered course with dif-

internships for MEng students would be beneficial both in terms of developing industry experience and potentially alleviating financial pressures. They also recommend some specialized courses for the MEng students, including one on "Ethics and Law" to help them with the PEng.

During the review there was some confusion among both faculty and students over the number of courses required for the PhD program and which courses taken as part of a Master's degree at Western or elsewhere could be counted towards PhD course requirements. The reviewers recommend that this matter be clarified and broadly communicated to both faculty and students.

The reviewers question the SGPS policy of not allowing junior faculty members sole supervision of a PhD student until they had graduated an MSc student, though they note that senior ECE faculty and administration generally support the policy.

They also note that the department is eager to increase its domestic enrolments and suggest drawing the Accelerated Master's Program and the Mitacs internship opportunities to the attention of the current undergraduate population.

There has been a lack of continuity in the staff administering the programme over the past few years and at the time of the review the department was without an AO. Both faculty and students expressed great regard for the current staff and concerns that without some immediate reorganization of their workload and management they might choose to leave the department.

Significant Strengths of Program:

- New field in cybersecurity
- Research strength of faculty
- Quality of research labs

Opportunities for improvement & Enhancement:

- Development of some courses tailored to the particular