



funding package. He has also presented a contrasting view regarding engagement of staff and graduate students in department decision making; he has suggested that demonstration of changes in practice to address issues, of which Dr Siddiqui presented several examples, are more important than engagement of staff and graduate students in department decision making. He also raises an important point about learning outcomes in the graduate program; he suggests that it may be possible for individual students to assemble their program based on a selection of courses that do not meet the overall graduate program learning objectives.

The recommendations made and described below have been acknowledged in the program's response to the external assessors' report. In fact, the program has described a number of initiatives that have already been put into place (such as additional graduate student representation on the Department Council and the formation of a new committee that will meet on a monthly basis to discuss concerns of the administrative and technical staff). They also describe that they are planning a departmental retreat for the summer of 2014, in collaboration with the Teaching Support Centre and SGPS, to specifically focus on learning objectives.

**Significant Strengths of Program:**

- Clear departmental administrative structure with 1) Department Chair, 2) Associate Chair, Graduate Research Programs, and 3) Associate Chair, Graduate Professional Programs.
- Clear departmental staff structure with Chris Seres (Administrative Assistant), Joanna Blom (Graduate Coordinator), and assistance from Claire Naudi (Undergraduate Coordinator).
- Responsiveness to needs, such as expanding the associate chair (research and professional)
- Strong technical and research support for the graduate students (such as the machine shop)
- Excellent research and professional training programs for the graduate students
- Unique opportunities for faculty graduate research in nationally and internationally ren(i)11ate1(ra)11(m)-001 Tv