

**Internal Academic Review Committee**  
**Common Themes Arising from the Reviews of the**  
**Basic Health Sciences Departments**

With the Departments comprising the Basic Health Sciences group scheduled for review under the Internal Academic Review process during the 2001 - 2002 cycle, the preliminary question of whether they should be examined as individual units, or be looked at together, was considered. The question arose in the first place because it was recognized that

the considerable integration and cooperation, along with natural commonalities, that exist among these disciplines in both teaching and research. In the circumstances, the IARC determined that the common concerns should be clearly communicated to Senate and further, that a common approach to resolving some of these issues should be recommended. Therefore, the IARC is presenting to Senate one comprehensive submission, which speaks to common issues among the five units, in addition to a separate and distinct report on each Department.

In this inclusive submission the IARC is recommending in the broadest sense that the five Basic Health Sciences Departmentnt

use of Canada Research Chair appointments as a partial response to some of their staffing issues. Budget constraints, however, along with the projected retirements, make the departments and some programs potentially vulnerable. Budget cuts have eroded both numbers and morale among the support and technical staff.

*The IARC recommends that the Basic Health Sciences Departments work together to explore and exploit opportunities for collaborative strategies and solutions to the staffing challenges they are currently facing. Such collaboration could occur, for example, through the development of strategic hiring plans, the pooling of resources, or administrative mergers.*

2. UNDERGRADUATE LABORATORIES: The undergraduate Life Sciences Program at Queen's University enjoys an excellent reputation; however, there is currently enormous pressure on the laboratories that are housed in the Basic Health Sciences Departments and used for the delivery of that program. Interim measures have been used to support the operation of the laboratories as the program has faced increasing enrolments and general budgetary difficulties, but long-term solutions are necessary to avoid more serious effects on the quality and quantity of the laboratory experience for Life Sciences students. The IARC recognizes that resolving this issue is more challenging because of the complexities of the involvement of both the Faculty of Arts and Science and the Faculty of Health Sciences in the Life Sciences program.

*The IARC recommends that the five Basic Health Sciences Departments conduct an appraisal of the laboratory curriculum of the Life Sciences program and explore the*



Outcomes of the Review:

*The following response was submitted by the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences and presented at the Ba*

Follow-up on these recommendations and issues will take place in the annual budget and staffing strategy meetings between the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Vice-Principal (Academic).