

Report of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies to Environment Faculty Council, 2023-2024

The portfolio of the ADUG encompasses undergraduate recruitment, admissions, student engagement, curriculum, academic integrity, non-academic discipline, grievances and all manner of undergraduate operations including scholarship and valedictorian selection, international exchanges and other internationalization activities, the administration of student course perception surveys, and scheduling and staffing of ENV5 courses. The undergraduate team consists of Carol Knipe (Undergraduate Operations Manager), Dana Elrick (Student Transitions and Engagement), Brittany Woodhall (Exchange and Undergraduate Operations Coordinator), the Recruitment Coordinator (Jaime Fohkens until mid-April), and our MUR Specialist, Alex Shave. We are supported by co-op students, peer mentors, the ambassador team, the O-team and orientation volunteers. Additionally, we draw on other members of the Dean's Office team, the associate chairs/directors (UG), faculty volunteers at recruitment and outreach events, advisors and all of our ASU colleagues in the Registrar's Office, Waterloo International and the Student Success Office. The ADUG works particularly closely with the Associate Dean Teaching (Christy Barbeau) and the Associate Dean Work-Integrated Learning (Mike Wood), and I additionally benefit from the expertise of my ADUG counterparts from across campus and in the Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (the AFIWs). All elements of this report are the result of many peoples' sustained efforts.

Undergraduate Studies at a Glance, 2023-2024

Student numbers reflect active students taking courses. In Fall 2022, by plan, across all years; variations form term to term are largely due to co-op work terms.

	Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Winter 2023
Planning	355	651	643
Environment and Business	292	429	462
International Development	21	40	36
Environment, Resources and Sustainability	178	290	284
Knowledge Integration	32	77	72
Geography and Aviation	144	199	185
GEM Plans	156	274	267
Geomatics	139	244	241
Climate and Environmental Change	7	34	34
Totals	1324	2238	2224

Additionally, Sustainability and Financial Management had 21 (S23), 80 (F23) and 80 (W23) students.

While there is some minor fluctuation in the plan numbers from year to year, on the aggregate, our student numbers have seen a very modest increase across all three terms.

Selected Highlights from 2022-2023

Recruitment: The 2023 cycle saw us exceed our domestic target. However, 165 of our 509 new students were admitted through alternate pathways. The strongest of these are Computer Science to Geomatics, Geography and Aviation to Geography, Architecture to Planning, Architectural Engineering to Planning (new in 2023) and Planning to Geography. We continue to build out SFM to Planning

Outreach: Our recruitment activities are primarily focused on grade 11 and 12 high school students, who are about to engage with or engaging with the university application process. In Winter 2024, we co-located GEM's outreach co-op student with the larger undergraduate team. This experiment was a resounding success, and, starting in Fall 2024, we plan on two faculty-level outreach students who will work with all departments.

Major highlights in outreach included GEM, through Grant Gunn, hosting high school classes on campus, and Christy Barbeau's heavy lifting hosting regional and provincial Envirothon events (regionals in April 2024, provincials technically in the following reporting year, in May 2024)

Transitions and Engagement: Dana Elrick took over the transitions and engagement role, and has spent the past year building out her vision. Dana's student transition projects include the Peer Mentorship program, Orientation, WaterlooReady and first-year advising (in collaboration with Brittany Woodhall). Dana's engagement work includes extensive collaboration with student societies, organizing student leadership breakfasts, and overseeing Envigorate. Additionally, she is our point person for Student Success Office-led initiatives.

Environment 2035

A major initiative in 2023-2024 was the undergraduate portion of Environment 2035. Our task team (Simon Courtenay, Christy Barbeau, Katie Plaisance, Chris Fletcher, Tara Thompson and Johanna Wandel) was quickly joined by associate chairs/directors (Erin O'Connell, Dan Murray, Andrew Trant, Carrie Mitchell and Vanessa Schweizer) to begin work focused on a "One Environment" approach. This includes the early stages of a common core curriculum via three common first-year courses and the establishment of faculty-wide field courses. We are only at the beginning of Environment 2035, which will be the focus of our 2023-2024 Annual General Meeting.