Executive Summary

This program is flourishing, meets the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC) requirements and recommendations from a 2010 accreditation review have all been met. Graduates have been successful in private practice and/or academic appointments and have all passed their National Dental Specialty Examination (NDSC) upon completion of the program. The clinic is well organized and the current space is adequate but the planned renovations with additional orthodontic chairs and clinical support space will allow for more efficiency in the treatment of the orthodontic patients and allow for the addition of a Dental Specialty Assessment and Training Program (DSATP) student.

Significant Strengths of Program:

- Program is deemed to be a high-caliber program that attracts excellent students.
- Program is a category 2 course based masters but it also produces a thesis which is defended orally with some of the projects published so the expectations of this program exceed typical category 2 programs.
- The students and alumni of this program are exceeding happy with the training they receive. Every student in the program (as well as every staff member) took time to meet with the reviewers and their feedback was positive. As further evidence of the satisfaction in the program, the alumni have helped to establish a professorship fund that will assist with future faculty needs and have contributed to the renovation costs.

Opportunities for improvement & Enhancement: There were no formal recommendations but the external reviewers made two suggestions for future consideration.

- While the program is flourishing under the leadership of Dr. Mamandras, and he is not planning to retire soon, where possible more faculty resources be pursued to assist the existing faculty members. The Graduate Orthodontic Clinic Director, Dr. Ali Tassi, currently holds a 60% position and the reviewers suggest that, if possible, this position be converted to 100%. Fund raising efforts are already underway to address these issues with the Mamandras Endowment Fund currently over $700,000.00. Dividends from this fund can support extra faculty resources.
- While a category 2 program would not normally be expected to publish projects, as mentioned above, some of their results should be made available to this community as the projects were deemed to be of very high quality. As a suggestion to facilitate publication, collaborative research may help to disseminate the research data more freely and rapidly. The program is already employing such a strategy. During the past year a new Faculty member (Western PhD Engineering Graduate) has been working with the program on collaborative research projects involving Graduate Orthodontics, Dental Biomaterials, Skeletal Biology, Roberts Imaging, and Engineering. These activities have already resulted in an accepted publication and a submitted publication.