

2007/08 Academic Program Review Philosophy

Finalized Implementation Plan

The following recommendations reflect the highest priorities of the program faculty, and have emerged from the discussions that have shaped the focus and assessments reflected in this program review. They represent priorities aimed at stabilizing practices currently in place that are clearly benefiting the program and our students. No additional funds are required to implement these recommendations, save what would come to the College in the form of enrollment growth funding, successful advancement initiatives, successful grant applications, and prudent enrollment management practices.

1. Continue to provide funding and workload support for productive scholarship and scholarly research activities, including conference travel, assigned-time release for research and writing projects, the annual Colloquium Lecture Series, occasional scholarly/philosophical conferences utilizing the Faculty Development Center, and due consideration in regard to course assignments and teaching schedules. These are current practices that have emerged from collective priorities and investments among our faculty, and we recommend in the strongest terms continuing them, not only to promote on-going professional development of our faculty, but also, as a consequence of this, to benefit our students, e.g., when we bring the enthusiasm and insights of our ongoing philosophical development into the classroom.
2. Continue to develop program assessment activities consistent with the assessment principles outlined in this document, with assigned time for the Philosophy PAC position, and continued emphasis on formative assessment outcomes utilized to serve the instructional mission of the program.
3. Continue to develop and implement effective recruiting materials and mentoring practices to slowly expand the number of students majoring in Philosophy. Continue to encourage place-bound graduates of our program to consider the MA program in Interdisciplinary Studies with a core emphasis in Continental Thought. Develop recruiting materials to attract the attention of graduates of other Philosophy programs who desire to continue their studies in 19th and 20th Century Continental philosophies. In direct support of this plan, gain approval for three new graduate-level courses to serve as core coursework for all of our MA templates: a course on Philosophical Research and Analysis, a course on Critical Theory/Philosophy of Literature, and a graduate-level Seminar in Continental Thought.
4. Continue to add course sections for GE electives in Philosophy at a level consistent with undergraduate enrollment growth figures for the College and University. Use this, along with the cultivation of an Ethics Minor, to move toward a permanent position in support of our emergent goals (e.g. the MA/IS concentration).
5. Cultivate a source of funds in support of a regular cycle of scholarly talks and annual or bi-annual philosophical conferences, organized by our own faculty and convened on campus, utilizing the engaging conference facilities of the Faculty Development Center.
6. Implement our new Alumni Survey to draw interested alumni back into the circuit of our philosophical activities and encourage them to attend an annual dinner and special lecture event to further our collective engagement in the study and appreciation of philosophical thought.