



Queen's University

Final Assessment Report: Executive Summary

Programs Reviewed: BA, BAH, MA, MA (Specialization in Political and Legal Thought), PhD in Philosophy

In accordance with Queen's University Quality Assurance Processes (QUQAP), this Final Assessment Report provides a synthesis of the external evaluation, internal responses and assessment of the above programs. This report identifies the significant strengths of the program, and opportunities for program improvement. It sets out and prioritizes the recommendations that have been selected for implementation.

An implementation plan is attached that identifies

- x who will be responsible for acting on and monitoring progress on the recommendations,
- x any resource or governance implications resulting from the recommendations, and
- x timelines for implementation of the recommendations.

Summary of Review

- 1) The department's self-study was reviewed by the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science, Vice-Provost and Dean, School of Graduate Studies and the Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning). It was approved on 17 February 2017.
- 2) The review team visit took place on 23-24 March

- 5) The Senate Cyclical Program Review Committee considered all the documentation at its meeting on 12 June 2017, and reported to the Provost on the programs' strengths, opportunities for enhancement, and recommendations for improvement.

The following strengths were noted:

- x Very high quality graduate program. Noteworthy are interdisciplinary initiatives such as the Political and Legal Thought option in the MA program .
- x International stature in graduate programming in areas of strength such as Political Philosophy, Applied Ethics, Feminist Philosophy and Ethics .
- x International stature in some research areas
- x Commitment to excellence in teaching at the undergraduate level.
- x A wide variety of course offerings and an increasing number of courses that deal with contemporary issues.

The following opportunities for enhancement were noted:

- x Changes to the manner in which undergraduate courses are planned and how teaching assignments are made.
- x Review of the undergraduate curriculum.
- x Strategic increase in faculty member complement to ensure the Department can maintain its excellent undergraduate and graduate programming.
- x Enhance the undergraduate student experience by improving the culture of the Department (e.g. more interaction between undergraduate and graduate students).

The academic programs in the Department of Philosophy have been approved to continue.

Date of next review: 2024-2025.

Prepared by Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning)

June 27, 2017

Recommendations

Proposed Follow -up

Responsibility for
Leading Follow-
up

Responsibility
for providing
Resources

Timeline for

Recommendations	Proposed Follow -up	Responsibility for Leading Follow-up	Responsibility for providing Resources	Timeline for Addressing Recommendation
<p>due to the recent addition of the new MA in PLT.</p>				
<p>5. Both graduate and undergraduate students raised diversity concerns in several respects: faculty demographics, student demographics, curricular design, and the content of individual course offerings. Reviewers recommend that the Department address these issues by taking steps such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> x Conducting an annual inventory of course readings from underrepresented groups x Conducting an annual “climate” survey of the graduate students x Clarifying procedures by which equity -addressing proposals coming from graduate students can be taken up by the department x Reminding course instructors to devote some lecture time at the start of large courses to giving guidance on 	<p>Collate data on course readings with an eye toward diversity; Survey graduate students; continue dialogue between Equity and Women’s Concerns Committee and the Philosophy Grad Student Association; Encourage instructors to include policy on respectful behaviour to</p>			

Recommendations

Proposed Follow -up

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up

Res

Recommendations	Proposed Follow -up	Responsibility for Leading Follow-up	Responsibility for providing Resources	Timeline for Addressing Recommendation
<p>8. Reviewers recommend the following initiatives as means to improve the undergraduate student experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Designate a Faculty member to be the Faculty liaison with the Undergraduate Philosophy Club b) Encourage and facilitate more interaction between undergraduate and graduate students c) Offer resources to 				

Recommendations

Proposed Follow -up

Responsibility for
Leading Follow-
up

Responsibility
for providing
Resources

Timeline for
Addressing
Recommendation

Recommendations

Associate Dean,
School of Graduate
Studies

The School of Graduate Studies shall be responsible for
reports that will be presented in writing to the Provost and Vice-Provost
Vice-Principal (Academic). Monitoring reports will be posted

Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan

September 11, 2017

Approval Date



Vice-Provost and Dean School of Graduate

Studies

Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science