Religion/Philosophy Department Action Plan Update: October 22, 2007; May 16, 2008

Status on Action Items from Program Review

1. The R/P department has researched the current Wilson Library holding for books relevant to their courses and made recommendations to the library (Appendix N).

Goal: Follow through on these new acquisitions.

Spring 2008 – Faculty are involved in requesting additions to the library. Over the past year, 53 new titles in Religion & Philosophy have been added to the Wilson Library collection.

2. Student Profile data for the purpose of comparing R/P students with the broader ULV student population is much desired but unavailable due to constraints in the Office of Institutional Research.

Goal: Re-address this issue when that department is functional again. The department is working with Yingxia in the Office of Institutional research to develop this information.

Spring 2008 – This is in process.

3. Increased contact with department alumni is now more realistic.

Goal: Increase the number of contacts and more successfully administer the Alumni Survey.

The Alumni Survey was administered, but with very little response. The department will work with Alumni relations to see how others are more successfully approaching this.

Spring 2008 – This is in process.

4. The department now has an Exit Survey for graduating seniors

Goal: Implement the newly developed Exit Survey and collect data. The department does not have an effective way to obtain results from Exit Surveys. Like Alumni Surveys, students are not available, nor motivated to respond once they are away from the campus. The department needs to develop a strategy for this.

Spring 2008 – The department has developed a method for administering the Senior Exit Questionnaire and has obtained results from all three graduates.

5. The department now has a rubric for formal assessment of Senior Projects.

Goal: Implement the newly developed rubric for formal assessment of Senior Projects and collect data.

This is in process.

Spring 2008 - The department has developed a method for applying the rubric for formal assessment of Senior Projects and has obtained results for all three graduates.

6. Goal: Seek a replacement location for archeologically based courses. Several attempts have been made, but due to political unrest in the Middle East, none have been successful. The department is currently pursuing a possible location in Hippos, Northern Israel.

Spring 2008 – Dr. Jonathan Reed has made new contacts in Israel and is travelling to a potential new site this summer.

7. Goal: Seek office space for Part-time faculty. *The department continues to make this need known, but space is at a premium and a solution is not forthcoming.*

Spring 2008 – Space is a premium on campus and no progress has been made on this.

8. Goal: Broaden course offerings to include Islam and/or Buddhism. The department hired a specialist in Islamic studies to offer a course in Introduction to Islam. Interest was low.

Additional Goals for Coming Year

1. Complete the process of submitting courses for the various designations under the new General Education guidelines.

Spring 2008 – Numerous courses have been submitted to the General Education Committee, and several have been rejected. This remains in process.

2. Restructure the Majors and Minors offered through the department. In so doing, the department will a) address goal #8 above, and b) meet the demand to change the unit value of all courses to four units.

Spring 2008 – This has been accomplished.

Goals for 2009:

1. Complete the process of submitting courses for the various designations under the new General Education guidelines.

2. Confirm a replacement location for archeologically based courses.

3. Obtain Student Profile data for the purpose of comparing R/P students with the broader ULV student population.

4. Improve Alumni data base.