

Religion/Philosophy Department
Action Plan Update: October 22, 2007; May 16, 2008; Fall 2009

Status on Action Items from Program Review, in prioritized order

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, ?? new titles in Religion & Philosophy have been added to the Wilson Library collection.

Fall 2009: Faculty are involved in requesting additions to the library. Over the past year, 41 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.

Fall 2009: We are currently working with James Schirmer to make this a part of the updated version of the department program review.

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.

Fall 2009: 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.

Fall 2009: The department has developed a method for administering the Senior Exit Questionnaire and has obtained results from one of the 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.

Fall 2009: 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.

Fall 2009: It is not likely that archeologically based courses are going to be available in the near future because a) the original site in Israel is permanently closed; b) most other sites want graduate students only; and c) Jonathan Reed is acting Dean for two years and not available to offer these types of courses.

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.

Fall 2009: Jonathan Reed is acting Dean for two years, his office space is being used to alleviate some of this problem.

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.

Fall 2009: We will be taking advantage of the seed money coming available from the Dean's Office to enhance the January term World Religions course with more travel and activities.

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.

Fall 2009: Thanks to the new GE process for accepting courses into the guidelines, most courses have been at least provisionally accepted.

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.

Fall 2009: The impact of these changes is that there is more flexibility in using Topics courses to meet core requirements in the major. A specific example is the ability to substitute for the History of Christianity more appealing courses that cover this field from different perspectives.

Goals for 2009:

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

Fall 2009: Thanks to the new GE process for accepting courses into the guidelines, most courses have been at least provisionally accepted.

2. Confirm a replacement location for archeologically based courses.

Fall 2009: Not likely to happen due to circumstances listed above.

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

Fall 2009: In process.

4. Improve Alumni data base.

Fall 2009: In process.