

FINAL SUMMARY REPORT OF PROGRAM REVIEW

Undergraduate Program	Philosophy at King's University College
New or Cyclical Program Review (please indicate)	Cyclical Program Review
Degree(s) Offered	BA
Date of Site Visit	February 6, 2012
Evaluation	Good Quality

Summary:

Dr. Jeffrey Bloechl, the external consultant, met with representatives of all the stakeholders and with the internal reviewer, Dr. J. Mitchell, Dean at Brescia College, in accordance with Western's IQAP policy.

The external consultant notes that King's has done a remarkable job of developing a course of studies in Philosophy that moves from a solid grounding in key texts and fundamental methods into a set of available specializations; that students receive an impassioned and well-grounded introduction to the study of Philosophy; that Philosophy at King's has excellent resources; that the Philosophy faculty are highly competent; that space and IT support are at least adequate and that library facilities are quite good. Dr. Bloechl also states that he favours the orientation of Philosophy at King's because it provides the programs at King's with a distinctive profile vis-à-vis the program at Western; it supports a distinctive contribution to the intellectual community of Western and its affiliated colleges, and makes important contributions to the Religious Studies programs offered by the same Department. The students who met with the external consultant were unanimous and outspoken in their love for Philosophy at King's.

While the review raises no issues of an urgent nature that require immediate attention, it does encourage greater cooperation between other Philosophy programs at the other campuses at Western, expresses concern with the low enrolment in the Philosophy and Religion modules, suggests a course in Analytic Philosophy, and comments on the need for more faculty research time given their heavy teaching responsibilities. These and other suggestions flowing from the report are listed below.

On the whole, King's is very pleased with this review and will see to it that its academic planning is informed by its recommendations.

Recommendation	Responsibility
More ties with the Department of Philosophy at Western	Chair and Philosophy Faculty of the Department
Review of the Philosophy and Religion Modules	Department Chair and EPC
A course in Eastern Philosophy	Department Chair and EPC
A course in Analytic Philosophy	Department Chair and EPC
Formal advising of students	Department Chair and EPC
An MA in Philosophy	Main campus department and King's department

FINAL SUMMARY REPORT OF PROGRAM REVIEW

Undergraduate Program	Religious Studies at King's University College
New or Cyclical Program Review (please indicate)	Cyclical Program Review
Degree(s) Offered	BA
Date of Site Visit	February 17, 2012
Evaluation	Good Quality

Summary:

Dr. Paul C. Burns, the external consultant, conducted his site visit on February 17, 2012 and met with representatives of all the stakeholders and with the internal reviewer, Dr. Nelson Heapy.

In his Report Dr. Burns notes the significant and positive changes the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies has made, since its last review, in the delivery of its Religious Studies programs. The new programs in Catholic Studies and World Religions and Culture were found to be comprehensive, rigorous and well-designed with a clear and detailed list of objectives and outcomes. Further to this point, Dr. Burns notes that the broad range of topics in the Catholic Studies program reflects the content of Masters programs in Theology and Divinity at some universities and colleges in Canada. Dr. Burns points out that the full-time faculty complement has more than doubled since the last review (to 7.33); that all the new faculty hires had completed their doctorates at prestigious universities in Canada, the US, and Europe; that all the faculty in Religious Studies have doctorates; that the faculty teaching evaluations are impressive and that there are positive signs of a healthy publishing record. The Department is complimented on its Catholic Studies for Teachers Program in partnership with the Faculty of Education, on its experiential trip to Rome initiative, and on its plans to establish a Centre for Research in Catholic Thought and Culture. Dr. Burns reports a high level of student engagement, tremendous industry and insight on behalf of the Chair, the availability of career and academic paths for graduates, and more than adequate library resources.

Although no urgent measures appear to be necessary, Dr. Burns does suggest a new hire in Systematic Theology, a redesign of the old Religious Studies modules, a research forum comparable to the successful one on the Philosophy side of the Department, more release time for the Chair and the exploration of Web-based pedagogies. On the whole, King's is very pleased with this review and will see to it that its academic planning is informed by its recommendations.

Recommendation	Responsibility
Expand Catholic Studies with an additional new hire in Systematic Theology	Department and EPC
Redesign the Old Religious Studies Modules	Department and EPC
New Centre for Research in Catholic Thought and Culture	Department and EPC
First Nations in both Catholic Studies and World Religions and Culture	Department and EPC
Work Load of Chair	Board of Directors
Web-based Pedagogies	EPC and Faculty Council
Formal recognition for participation in Pedagogical Workshops	Faculty activity reports allow for recognition
Faculty participation in academic advising	High quality advising is already available in the Dean's Office
Faculty involvement with Recruitment Projects	The Registrar does invite Department participation from time to time