

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON
QUALITY ASSURANCE
Cyclical Review of the undergraduate and graduate programs
in Philosophy
Executive Summary and Final Assessment Report**

This Executive Summary and Final Assessment Report of the cyclical review of Carleton's undergraduate and graduate programs in Philosophy are provided pursuant to the provincial Quality Assurance Framework and Carleton's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The undergraduate and graduate programs in Philosophy reside in the Department of Philosophy, a unit administered by the Faculty of Arts and Social Science.

As a consequence of the review, the programs were categorized by Carleton University's Senate Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (SQAPC) as being of good quality. (Carleton's IQAP 7.2.13-7.2.14).

The External Reviewers' report offered a very positive assessment of the programs. Within the context of this positive assessment, the report nonetheless made a number of recommendations for the continuing enhancement of the programs. These recommendations were productively addressed by the Chair of the Department of Philosophy and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Science in response to the External Reviewers' report and Implementation on Plan that was submitted to SQAPC on March 9, 2023.

Philosophy
Unit Response to External Reviewers' Report & Implementation Plan
Programs Being Reviewed: Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

Note: This document is forwarded to Senate, the Quality Council and posted on the Vice- Provost's external website.

Introduction & General Comments

The Department of Philosophy was pleased to receive the Reviewers' very positive External Reviewers' report on November 28, 2022. This report was shared with our faculty and staff, and we are committed to the continual improvement of our programs to enhance the student, staff, and faculty experience. This document contains both a response to the External Reviewers' Report and an Implementation Plan which have been created in consultation with the Dean.

For each recommendation **one** of the following responses must be selected:

Agreed to unconditionally: used when the unit agrees to and is able to take action on the recommendation without further consultation with any other parties internal or external to the unit.

Agreed to if additional resources permit: used when the unit agrees with the recommendation, however action can only be taken if additional resources are made available. Units must describe the resources needed to implement the recommendation and provide an explanation demonstrating how they plan to obtain those resources. In these cases, discussions with the Deans will normally be required and therefore identified as an action item.

Agreed to in principle: used when the unit agrees with the recommendation, however action is dependent on something other than resources. Units must describe these dependencies and determine what actions, if any, will be taken.

Not agreed to: used when the unit does not agree with the recommendation and therefore will not be taking further action. A rationale must be provided to indicate why the unit does not agree (no action should be associated with this response).

Calendar Changes

If any of the action items you intend to implement will result in calendar changes, please describe what those changes will be. To submit a formal calendar change, please do so using the Courseleaf system.

Hiring

Where an action item requires additional hiring (faculty or staff) the owner should at minimum include the Dean of the faculty and member of the unit.

UNIT RESPONSE AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Programs Being Reviewed: Philosophy

Prepared by Annie Larivée, Chair, Philosophy Department, 19/12/2022:

External Reviewer Recommendation & Categorization	Unit Response (choose only one for each recommendation): 1- Agreed to unconditionally 2- Agreed to if additional resources permit (describe resources) 3- Agreed to in principle 4- Not agreed to Rationales are required for categories 2, 3 & 4	Action Item	Owner	Timeline	Will the action described require calendar changes? (Y or N)
1) Hire a new faculty member. Weakness	<i>2- The Department thoroughly agrees with the recommendation. The percentage of philosophy courses taught by CIs is abnormally high and we have a pressing need for a specialist in Ethics.</i>	<i>The Chair of the Department will discuss this recommendation with the Dean. If our request is approved by the Dean and University, we will hire a new colleague.</i>	<i>Dean of FASS, Chair, Departmental hire committee</i>	<i>If approved, position requested immediately. New colleague hired by July 2024</i>	<i>N</i>
2) Create a five-year plan with the goal of bringing CI support down to 25% and more equitable sharing of interdisciplinary administrative burdens. Weakness	<i>Creation of plan: 1. Implementation of plan: 2. The creation of the plan is agreed to unconditionally. The implementation of the plan is pending the University's approval in hiring new faculty member (see #1) and, possibly, Instructor(s).</i>	<i>Interdisciplinary administrative burdens will be discussed with the Dean and the Director of EPAF. A five-year plan will be created by the Department in consultation with the Director of EPAF, and the Dean.</i>	<i>Chair, Director of EPAF, Dean</i>	<i>Plan to be created by Jan. 2024</i>	<i>N</i>
3) Hire a humane exterminator/behaviorist to manage the rat problem in the building by making the space less attractive to the rats, and providing them with alternatives. Weakness	<i>2- The Department strongly agrees with the recommendation (although it should be mentioned that we are only aware of a mice problem). The Department has informed ODFASS and Facilities Management & Planning multiple times of the recurring mice infestation in Paterson Hall, and of the unsafe work conditions it creates. Finding a durable solution to this problem requires the contribution of pest experts.</i>	<i>Follow up with ODFASS and Facilities, Management, & Planning (FMP) for an update on managing the rodent problem in the building.</i>	<i>Department Administrator, FMP, ODFASS</i>	<i>Immediately</i>	<i>N</i>

<p>4) Consider recruiting undergraduates by having majors visit introductory courses. Concern</p>	<p><i>4- We agree with the spirit of the recommendation. However, a similar strategy is already in place as members of CUPS (Philosophy's student Society) regularly visits first-year classes.</i></p> <p><i>We will continue with the strategy in place of having CUPS visit first-year classes. In addition to this, our Undergrad Supervisor will encourage faculty members to promote our BA program in their lower-level courses in November and March.</i></p>			<p><i>N/A</i></p>	<p><i>N</i></p>
<p>5) Consider recruiting MAs by having GPD visit 4th year courses, reconsidering admissions criteria, and holding an in-person open house for admitted students. Concern</p>	<p><i>4- We agree with the spirit of the recommendation. However, since we already have such strategies in place (as explained in our Self-Study, p. 66), there is no need for additional actions. The Graduate Supervisor visits fourth year seminars (in HUMS for instance) and will continue to do so. Admitted students are invited for one-on-one site visits with the GS, GA, faculty, and current MA students. Given the size of our program, individualized visits work better for us than an open house as they are adapted to each student's needs and availability. With respect to reconsidering admissions criteria, applicants already indicate "Why Carleton" in their statement letter.</i></p> <p><i>When the Department fails to meet its 'target' it is typically not because of a shortage of good applicants. Rather, it is due to the fierce competition among the high number of MA programs in Ontario and better funding packages offered elsewhere.</i></p> <p><i>Each year, the Department works vigorously on graduate recruitment as a team under the lead of our Graduate Supervisor, and all existing strategies described in our Self-Study will continue. We are also considering improvements</i></p>			<p><i>N/A</i></p>	<p><i>N</i></p>

	<i>on existing strategies. For instance, since the webinar format is not as popular as it once was, we recently decided to replace our two recruitment webinars with videos explaining the structure and main strengths of the MA program.</i>				
6) Consider adding programming as a disjunct to the methodology requirement. Concern	<i>3- The Department is receptive to the idea of re-visiting the methods requirement and broadening the course options to meet it; however, adding a programming course may not be the best or the only way to achieve this. This requires careful consideration.</i>	<i>The Curriculum Committee will examine options at the next CC meeting and report to the Department. An action will be taken only if the Department concludes that a change is needed.</i>	<i>Curriculum Committee, Members of the Department</i>	<i>Decision to be made by September 1st 2023 for implementation in the 2024-25 curriculum</i>	<i>Y (if revised option is recommended and implemented)</i>
7) Consider implementing two SSHRC/OGS scholarship workshops in September/early October. Concern	<i>4- While the Department agrees with the spirit of the recommendation, such strategies are already in place. EPAF and PHIL (jointly with Cog-Sci) host several SSHRC/OGS workshops in September/October to which all PHIL MA and 4th year BA students are invited; this strategy will continue.</i>			<i>N/A</i>	<i>N</i>
8) Consider creating more departmental events and sharing these in a community event calendar to bolster departmental life. Concern	<i>2- The pandemic affected our community, but now that life has returned to campus, many events are already happening (e.g., in person Colloquium talks, CUPS sponsored discussion group and pub nights, World Philosophy Day event, Research Day event, etc.). That said, we are willing to do more to support the creation of events. Currently, the Department has financial resources to support a certain number of events. However, the ability to organize events in the future depends on the budgetary resources allocated by the Dean.</i>	<i>The Graduate Administrator will create a community event calendar in collaboration with the Communications Team. The Department will attempt to organize more social events for students (e.g., our own version of FASS's 'Coffee with a Prof'; a winter panel with reception; pizza lunches mid-way through term, etc.).</i>	<i>CUPS Liaison, Communications Team, Departmental and Graduate Administrators; Dean's approval for events budget</i>	<i>Beginning January 2023</i>	<i>N</i>

<p>9) Consider increasing support for graduate students as they write their thesis in the second year. Opportunity</p>	<p>1-</p>	<p><i>The Department will help organize a 'Thesis Writing Group' to provide opportunities for 2nd year MA students to work on their thesis in a community environment.</i></p>	<p><i>Graduate Supervisor, Graduate Administrator</i></p>	<p><i>Sept. 2023</i></p>	<p><i>N</i></p>
<p>10) Consider mounting more 1000 level courses with an eye toward building more interdisciplinary connections and recruiting more majors. Opportunity</p>	<p><i>2- The Department is currently building interdisciplinary courses (e.g., a cross-listed course with Cog. Sci 'AI: Philosophical and ethical issues' coming Fall 2023) and has recently created several innovative courses open to first-year students ('Phil of pop culture'; 'Phil of emotions'; 'Happiness, well-being, and the good life'; 'Phil of technology', Children, literature, and philosophy'). While we agree with the recommendation of creating more 1000-level interdisciplinary courses, we are limited by the lack of instructors to teach them.</i></p>	<p><i>The Department will consider creating additional new courses (e.g., a course in the Ethics of AI) if the actions suggested in items #1 and #2 (above) are implemented and provide the resources needed to offer new courses.</i></p>	<p><i>Curriculum Committee, ODFASS, Dean</i></p>	<p><i>Decisions to be made by September 1st 2023 for implementation in the 2024-25 curriculum</i></p>	<p><i>Y (if action is implemented)</i></p>
<p>11) Consider mounting a year-long capstone research experience for philosophy majors. Opportunity</p>	<p><i>3- While we agree with the spirit of the recommendation, it cannot be applied as suggested. Indeed, Philosophy majors don't go through a fixed year-by-year program. This makes a year-long capstone research experience hard to implement without affecting the flexibility of our program (which is an asset) and lengthening completion time.</i></p> <p><i>We also don't have the resources required to organize and teach a full-year capstone course.</i></p> <p><i>However, the Department is willing to explore alternatives options to arouse a sense of community and of achievement in our 4th year students.</i></p>	<p><i>In consultation with the Department, the Curriculum Committee will consider introducing an optional one-term capstone experience (in the form of a research tutorial, for instance).</i></p>	<p><i>Curriculum Committee, Members of the Department</i></p>	<p><i>Decision to be made by September 1st 2023</i></p>	<p><i>Y (possibly although not necessarily, as existing course codes could be used)</i></p>