

Cyclical Program Review of Programs offered by the School of Religion One Year Progress Report on Implementation Plan

Date: 12 April 2016

At the conclusion of the cyclical program review, a final assessment report and implementation plan was agreed by the Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science, and Vice-Provost and Dean, School of Graduate Studies. The deans are responsible for monitoring the implementation plan.

Please complete the table below to report on progress made in the past year against the implementation plan. Add further explanation if necessary in the *additional notes* section. The table is to be completed by the academic unit and reviewed by the relevant deans/associate deans. Please return to quqap@queensu.ca by 2 May 2016.

The Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) will review this progress report. It will then be appended to the Deans' annual reports for the 2015-16 academic year, filed in the Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic). Please note that monitoring reports will be posted on the university web site.

ONE YEAR FOLLOW UP

Recommendation	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility for Leading Follow-up	Timeline for Addressing Recommendation	Please indicate whether the implementation is on target and on time, and provide a brief description.
<p>1. The School of Religion should engage its students, at both the undergraduate and graduate level, in the digital humanities (i.e. the use of new media and new technologies in the organization, creation and dissemination of knowledge). As the review team points out, training in the digital humanities is advantageous for students as it can be applied for research, collaborative practice, and knowledge dissemination.</p>	<p>Initiate discussions with relevant deans, associate deans, library, director of the school and senior faculty</p>	<p>Relevant associate deans, and as appropriate the library and other units</p>	<p>Dean of arts and science's <i>annual report</i> to the provost 2016</p> <p>Vice-provost and dean, graduate studies' <i>annual report</i> to the provost 2016</p>	<p>Frankly, we were a bit surprised by this recommendation because at no point during the review process was the School asked about our use of the Digital Humanities. At that time, two of the Faculty members were already involved in projects that fit broadly into the framework of Digital Humanities and were using these tools in their teaching (and continue to do so). Prof. James Miller developed and maintains a page that introduces Daoism and, among other things, links to news items that involve Daoism (http://www.daoiststudies.org). He uses it in teaching courses on that particular religious tradition. Prof. Richard Ascough is one of three contributors to an online website on Associations in the Greco-Roman World (http://philipharland.com/greco-roman-associations/) that includes texts and translations of inscriptions and papyri documents, along with maintenance of the up-to-date bibliography. Subsequent to the CPR review, in offering a new course in Fall 2015 on Greek and Roman Religions (RELS 321/821), Prof. Ascough had students use this resource extensively throughout this course.</p> <p>More recently, in a course offered in Fall 2015, Sharday Mosurinjohn, one of the School's Bader Postdocs, partnered with the WikiEdu Foundation to create a course (RELS 452/852 The Contemporary Religious Situation) around teaching students to</p>

				<p>scaffold skills of collaborative annotation, research and writing, and peer review and editing, with the end result of learning to use a new online platform while contributing scholarly information to a real-world resource (see further https://wikiedu.org/blog/2015/12/02/the-great-wikipedia-learning-adventure/). Prof. Goldberg includes a creative component in her undergraduate course assessment, and some students choose to create digital projects.</p> <p>Finally, we can note that some courses offered through the School have been taught in the new interactive, technology enhanced classrooms in Ellis Hall through which students can access digital humanities resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RELS 237 Religion and Film (Ellis 321: Fall 2014, Richard Last) • RELS 235 Religion and Environment (Ellis 321: Winter 2014, Jason Kelly) • RELS 321 Greek and Roman Religions (Ellis 333, Winter 2015, Richard Ascough) • RELS 368 Religion and Business Ethics (Ellis 333: Fall 2014, Winter 2016, Richard Ascough)
2. The School of Religion should explore the viability of creating a centre for interdisciplinary study of religion. As noted in the review team report, such a centre would provide a vibrant interdisciplinary learning culture for graduate	Consult with vice-principal (research), cognate department heads, arts and science and the school of graduate	Director of school, associate vice-principal (research), relevant associate deans	Dean of arts and science's <i>annual report</i> to the provost 2016 Vice-provost and dean, graduate studies' <i>annual</i>	The Director has been actively exploring the feasibility of creating a Centre or Institute within the School of Religion. That said, at no time was it our intention to create a "centre for interdisciplinary study of religion." Such a centre would require faculty buy-in at a level that, to date, has never been discussed. Also, it would involve significant amounts of funding for <i>research</i> , which we do not have available to us at the School.

<p>students and faculty in cognate departments, as well as within the school. It would also raise the profile of religious studies at Queen's University and in the local area, as well as amongst comparable universities in North America.</p>	<p>studies to initiate discussion and create business plan for the creation of a centre</p>		<p><i>report to the provost 2016</i></p>	<p>What we did articulate, and what is reflected in the School's CPR report, is that we would use extant non-endowed funds, along with repurposing some endowments previously slated for Theology programming, to create a "Centre" to coordinate the School's activities for engaging specialists and non-specialists in the trajectories and conclusions of academic research in the study of Religion and Theology. This was envisioned as a means to disseminate the <i>results</i> of research that would include a number of regular high profile initiatives focused on three key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • history and development of religious traditions into the present, • engagement of religion in culture, • theory and method in the study of religion. <p>Our investigation has clearly shown that the nomenclature of "Centre" or "Institute" is not correct for the type of activities to which the School has committed to engage and we continue to seek some way to give an institutional presence to the various events we hold.</p> <p>In the meantime, beginning in Fall 2014 the School has offered a number of lectures and conferences on the theme of Religion or Theology as well as providing supporting funding to many initiatives in other departments across campus (see list appended below).</p> <p>The School has also been working with Advancement to create new Terms of Reference for extant endowments for Theology, the results of which will support both the ongoing outreach activities of the</p>
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<p>3. To build on recent transitional experiences, the school should develop a mid-term strategic plan that focuses on a shared vision for the next three to five years.</p>	<p>School to organize unit retreat</p>	<p>Director of school</p>	<p><i>Updated reporting timeline:</i> Progress report to vice-provost (teaching and learning) by 30 September 2016.</p>	<p>The School of Religion requested and was granted from Vice-Provost Jill Scott a delay in holding a retreat to develop a mid-term strategic plan. The request was made since we were in the midst of a process that led to the formal closing of the School's Theology programs (finalized in November 2015). With that closure, we now have a clear mandate to focus on our Religious Studies programming. Also, we are hiring a new faculty member for a tenure-track position (the first in fourteen years!) in a new area for the School ("The Contemporary Religious Context"). This means we can look towards the future and have now scheduled a full-day retreat for teaching faculty and staff on June 14, 2016. During the retreat, we will be looking particularly at the following issues, which arise out of the external reviewers' report:</p>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What curriculum changes can be made to improve our major/ minor plans? • Should we add specific fields to our MA program? • How can we better collaborate with other units? • How do we engage students in the digital humanities and how might these efforts be enhanced? • How best do we move forward with the “Centre”? • Other issues that we want to bring to the table.
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Additional Notes:

APPENDIX: “Centre” Activities at the School of Religion

Year	School of Religion Events	Co-Sponsored Events	Donations/Support
2016	Lecture – Lorne Dawson, “Radicalization of Canadian Jihadists” (March 17)	Visitor – Jean Allman, African Religion (DEVS) (Feb 24)	UnDisiplined Conference (CUST)
	Graduate Conference - Unravelling Religion 3 (May 13-14)		Conference – Ontario Universities Taking Action Against Sexual Violence (GNDS)
	Public Lecture – Karen King (Sept 16)		SNID (Studies in National and International Development) Speaker Series
	Conference – Martyrdom (Sept 16-18)		
	Lecture – Willie Jennings (Toller Lecture in Religion) (Oct 19)		
2015	RELS Film Series @ The Screening Room (Sept, Oct, Nov)	Matariki Network Conference “Teaching Religion across the Humanities Curriculum” (Oct 1-3)	RELS 4 th Year Dinner (RELS DSC)
	Undergraduate Student Conference (Oct 17-18)	Lecture: “Disciplina Etrusca: Religion, Identity and the Fate of the Etruscans in the context of	ALECC Conference (ENGL)

		Roman Italy”, Daniele Federico Maras (March 16) (CLST)	
	Panel Presentation: “Our Stolen Sisters: Listening to the Voices from our Community” (March 19)	Graduate Conference – Ideology(ies) (Jan 30-31)	SNID (Studies in National and International Development) Conference
	Conference: “Islamism and Post-Islamism: Religious and Political Transformations in Muslim Societies” (March 13-14)		Environmental Humanities Conference
	Graduate Conference - Unravelling Religion 2 (March 7)		Context & Meaning Conference (ARTH)
			Interdisciplinary Symposium on Boredom (CUST)
			Challenges of Aging & Dying Conference (FREN)
			Queen's University Muslim Students' Association (QUMSA) welcome dinner
2014	Donald Mathers Memorial Lecture: His Holiness Tawadros II, Pope of Coptic Church, “The Role of the Coptic Church in Strengthening Unity and Narrowing Gaps between Denominations” (Sept 26)	Symposium: “Rembrandt and Religion: Jews, Christians and the Bible in the Art of Rembrandt and his Circle” (Oct 29) (ARTH & JWST)	
	Graduate Conference – Unravelling Religion (Feb 28-Mar 1)	Brown Bag Lunch Discussion for Graduate Students with Rembrandt Symposium Speakers (Oct 30) (ARTH & JWST)	