

Philosophy

Graduate and Undergraduate Review

Year 2 (2021) - FAR Implementation Report

(reviewed 2018/19)

Recommendation #1

The department should conduct a complete curriculum review to provide broader, but more efficient coverage, align courses at different levels, and increase enrollment.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee expects that the complete curriculum review will also serve to address the reviewers' other recommendations (5,6,7) about possible curriculum changes.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 The Department discussed and agreed to offering a broader range of courses.	Department	T	T	
Action #2 The Department recognizes the need to employ part-time instructors to bolster course offerings.	Department	T	O	
Action #3 Posting of future courses on the Department website is an ongoing project.	Department	T	T	

Comment February 2020:

The Department's teaching budget proposal was tendered in the fall 2019 term. It is still under review at the decanal level. The Dean of Humanities indicated that budgetary constraints may limit the Department's course offerings for 2020-21. Once the Department is informed of the approved course offerings, a webpage listing these along with future offerings will be posted online.

Comment February 2021:

The Department has introduced a number of new first and second year courses in an effort to diversify our offerings. Last term we employed 3 part-time instructors, while this term we have 2 part-time instructors; note that 1 of these instructors is teaching a two-term introductory course. Next year we are on target to employ part-time instructors to teach one introductory course and two second/third year courses. Finally, the Department website is currently undergoing a complete redesign with the hope of having it completed in March 2021

Recommendation #2

The department should hire 1 or 2 LTA's so that full-time faculty can limit overload teaching, as an intermediary measure until a full-time tenure-track faculty member can be hired.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside of the Committee's jurisdiction. It is expected that the Department will proceed through normal channels of advocacy for faculty resources.

Implementation Plan

Recommendation not accepted.

Recommendation #3

The department should hire a tenure-track specialist in Chinese philosophy and continental philosophy, to continue to provide a strong non-western and comparative program.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside of the Committee's jurisdiction. It is expected that the Department will proceed through normal channels of advocacy for faculty resources.

Implementation Plan

Recommendation not accepted.

Comment February 2020:

The Department continues to request each year for a hire in these areas of specialization. This has been an ongoing effort by the Department in its attempt to replace past and recent retirements.

Comment February 2021:

The Department continues to request each year for a hire in these areas of specialization. This has been an ongoing effort by the Department in its attempt to replace past and recent retirements. This year the request was again denied. The Department will continue seeking new appointments to replace retired faculty members.

Recommendation #4

The Department should offer additional large, introductory courses to increase enrollment.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation
 ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)
 Responsible for approving: Department
 Responsible for resources: Department
 Responsible for implementation: Department
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 The Department proposed offering 3 large enrollment first year philosophy courses for 2020-21 in the fall 2019 budget submission.	Department	C	C	
Action #2 Two of these three introductory courses are to be taught by part-time instructors.	Department	C	C	
Action #3 One of the these three introductory courses is a newly designed class aimed at garnering high enrollment.	Department	T	T	

* T (On Target), D (Delayed), C (Complete) and O (Complete and Ongoing)

Two other newly designed introductory courses are being prepared for 2021-22.				
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Comment February 2020:

Budgetary constraints have impacted the Department’s initiatives in this regard. The Dean of Humanities has limited to 2 the number of introductory course offerings: one will be taught by a part-time instructor, and the newly designed offering will be taught by a tenured faculty member. Historically, the Department has been quite successful in recruiting Philosophy Majors through these first year offerings, hence offering only 2 of the 3 will significantly and negatively impact these efforts.

Comment February 2021:

The Department is offering 2 introductory courses this year, one of which is taught by a part-time instructor. Next year the Department will again offer 2 such courses. This spring just as last spring, the Department is offering 1 introductory course. Of these fall/winter courses, one of these is a newly designed first year course; the coming spring course is also a newly designed first year course; and one of the introductory courses for the next academic year will also be a newly designed course. The addition of these newly designed courses also contributes to the on-going diversification of our undergraduate curriculum.

Recommendation #5

The Department should consider developing a new course that builds on their transdisciplinarity, and that further raises the profile of philosophy amongst students and within the university - for example, a course on information technology ethics.	
ARC Disposition of the Recommendation	
ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee expects that this will be considered during the curriculum review referenced in Recommendation #1.	
Implementation Plan (1st Priority)	
Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

* T (On Target), D (Delayed), C (Complete) and O (Complete and Ongoing)

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 The Department plans to offer PHIL 3Q98 in the fall 2020, and PHIL 3P19 is currently being taught.	Department	T	O	
Action #2 The Department has recognized the demand for and continual success of PHIL/BIOL 2P95, and plans on offering this course on a yearly basis as well as allowing part-time instructors to teach the class.	Department	T	O	
Action #3 The development of new transdisciplinary courses is a long term goal.	Department	D	T	

Comment February 2020:

The Department is moving forward with offering its current slate of transdisciplinary courses, but is hampered by its lack of faculty to develop new courses of this type. The Department has been attempting for quite sometime to be granted a new faculty position hire, which would make possible such curricular additions, but has not had these requests fulfilled.

Comment February 2021:

The Department is currently offering PHIL 3Q98 (2021 Winter/D3). In addition, the Department is intent on offering PHIL 2P95 on a yearly basis, and will endeavor to make it part of its undergraduate curriculum every year. It will be taught by a part time instructor or a tenured faculty member. In addition to these two courses, a new course, PHIL 3P18 The Technological Dimension, will be offered in 2021-22. It will build upon and advance the work in PHIL 2P18 Postmodernism. Also, see the comment February 2021 for Recommendation #4, as three newly designed introductory courses will be offered by the next academic year.

Recommendation #6

The Department should consider working with other programs, and the support of administration, to develop a certificate in pre-law and/or ethics, built out of existing courses that are already being taught within the department.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee expects that this will be considered during the curriculum review referenced in Recommendation #1.

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)

Responsible for approving: Department
 Responsible for resources: Department
 Responsible for implementation: Department
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 The Department chair is to develop contacts with the Faculty of Education.	Department	D	O	
Action #2 The Department chair is to develop contacts with the Law Plus program.	Department	D	T	

Comment February 2020:

The Department chair has placed on hold this recommendation. Two key factors have disrupted the administration of the Department: the Department had to replace its full time administrative assistant during the fall 2019 term, and then train the new assistant, which is an ongoing and so far successful project. Secondly, the Department is facing a physical relocation, which was initially supposed to happen with four months notice after April 2019. This planned relocation has been pushed back numerous times with the latest date being April 2020.

Comment February 2021:

The Department was physically relocated in September 2020, in the midst of the campus pandemic lockdown. As of this writing, most of the faculty have not seen their new offices, let alone unpacked their office moving boxes. Despite these massive changes to the Department's normal operations, the Chair has established contacts with the Faculty of Education: a new course, PHIL 2Q91, cross-listed with EDUC and CANA, will be offered in Spring 2021, and then on a yearly basis moving forward. For years, the Philosophy Department was unable to hire a qualified instructor for PHIL 2Q90, but by working with EDUC, a replacement course will be readily available to our students.

* T (On Target), D (Delayed), C (Complete) and O (Complete and Ongoing)

Furthermore, the Department has developed certificates in Ethics and Pre-Law. These will be available to students in the undergraduate 2021-22 Brock Calendar. The intent of these microcredentials is to offer students alternate ways to enroll in Brock courses.

Recommendation #7

The Department should consider developing an online or hybrid online/in-person course to increase enrollment and transdisciplinarity, and attract more majors and minors.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Committee expects that this will be considered during the curriculum review referenced in Recommendation #1.

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)

Responsible for approving: Department
 Responsible for resources: Department
 Responsible for implementation: Department
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2020/21

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 The Department should develop additional transdisciplinary courses.	Department	D	O	
Action #2 The development of new transdisciplinary courses is a long term goal.	Department	D	O	
Action #3 Raising the profile of PHIL 2P25 Logic is an ongoing project of the Department.	Department	T	T	

Comment February 2020:

As stated above in the Comment for Recommendation #5, the lack of internal Department faculty resources does not make the creation of new transdisciplinary courses a viable action at the current moment.

* T (On Target), D (Delayed), C (Complete) and O (Complete and Ongoing)

Comment February 2021:

The pandemic shut down of the university has given the Department new opportunities to address these particular actions (#1 and #2). Even with our limited faculty complement, we are endeavoring to offer new courses, such as PHIL 1F95, PHIL 1F96, PHIL 1F97, and PHIL 3P18. With the addition of our certificates in Pre-Law and Ethics, and the resounding success of PHIL 2P25 over the past few years, the Department has worked to raise the profile of all of these courses.

Recommendation #8

The department should consider expanding the M.A. program to two years. This would give graduate students an extra semester to take courses (thereby mitigating graduate student concern with course offerings) and make more students available to run seminars in additional large, first-year courses.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving: Department
 Responsible for resources: Department
 Responsible for implementation: Department
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 The Department has submitted to the appropriate committees the above modifications for the PHIL MA Program.	Department	T	C	
Action #2 Follow-up justifications and forms to explain the proposed modifications have also been submitted.	Department	T	C	

Comment February 2020:

The Department is currently navigating the bureaucratic requirements for implementing the program modifications of the MA Program. The Department is hopeful that these efforts will

* T (On Target), D (Delayed), C (Complete) and O (Complete and Ongoing)

be successful, and that the modified program will begin in the fall 2020. The final approval for the proposed program modifications is granted by committees outside of the Department, and those approvals are still pending.

Comment February 2021:

In the fall of 2020, the Department enrolled its first cohort of graduate students into its newly designed 5 term MA degree. The pandemic has certainly altered the impact of this structural change, but with the hope of returning to in-person classes in 2021 Fall, this first cohort will have the opportunity for an authentic graduate experience with their peers along with direct access to their professors. Also note that there was an important correction made to the PHIL MA Graduate Program calendar entry. The corrected version should be appear in the 2021-22 calendar.

Recommendation #9

The department (and administration) should consider developing incentives for faculty to apply for external funding, in order to make their graduate student funding more competitive and thereby raise the quality of their already very good graduate program.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside of the Committee’s jurisdiction and has implications with respect to the Brock University/Faculty Association Collective Agreement.

Implementation Plan

Recommendation not accepted.

Recommendation #10

The department should engage in conversations with Recruitment, Career Education, and Experiential Learning contacts at the University, to explore the possibility of programs that would benefit philosophy students, and reach out to the community, but not further tax an already over-stretched faculty complement.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 The Department should develop further contacts within and outside of the University in order to promote its programs.	Department	D	D	

Comment February 2020:

Given the transitions that the Department is facing, along with its already over-taxed faculty, these efforts have been delayed.

Comment February 2021:

Given the pandemic restrictions, making outreach efforts, let alone developing such programs and relations external to Brock, is quite impossible. Of course our limited faculty staffing issues have not changed since last year.

* T (On Target), D (Delayed), C (Complete) and O (Complete and Ongoing)