

4-YEAR POST IQAP FOLLOW-UP REPORT

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PROGRAM	IQAP REVIEW DATE	PREPARED BY
Philosophy	2014-15	Dean of Arts Science

PROGRESS OF PPC RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION	% COMPLETE	RESPONSIBLE MEMBER/UNIT	EXPECTED COMPLETION
A new course in Philosophy of Law has now been approved and will be offered for the first time in the 2018-19 academic year; this represents at least some attempt to meet need identified in recommendation 8.	N/A	Philosophy	2018-19

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE

There were no specific recommended actions listed in the final report, though the actual report by the external reviewers contained a number of important and helpful suggestions.

LIST OF ACTION ITEMS LEADING UP TO NEXT REVIEW

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE MEMBER/UNIT	PROJECTED COMPLETION
N/A		

Although there were no specific recommended actions listed in the Final Report, the Philosophy Program would like to note the following:

1. Recommendation 4 concerned targeting writing assistance for students struggling with their coursework: the assistance currently provided by Student Development Services is inadequate, which was the point of the recommendation; and it is equally clear that the implementation of ACAD as a mandatory course has not solved this problem (while the decision to count ACAD as a humanities credit has seriously damaged enrollments in Philosophy). The recommendation calls, in essence, for an appropriately staffed writing centre and, unfortunately, no relevant reply is offered in the Final Report.
2. The response from PPC repeatedly objects that the recommendations of the reviewers exceed the IQAP mandate: indeed, this complaint is raised in some form to four or five of the eight recommendations. This is unfortunate for two reasons:
 - (a) It is simply not the case that, for instance, whether administrative tasks are unduly downloaded onto faculty is irrelevant to the “appropriateness and effectiveness of the academic unit’s use of human, physical and financial resources.” The point is clearly that such administrative burdens are an inappropriate and ineffective use of our resources. Much the same could be said for many of the other recommendations: to wit, we cannot make effective use of our research potential if taking sabbatical threatens our ability to offer an honours program.
 - (b) The recommendations made by the external reviewers are good-faith proposals for how the Philosophy program could best be supported and enhanced and, in some cases (as in the necessity of sabbatical replacements), regarding the protection of the minimal conditions under which the program can adequately perform its tasks. Insofar as PPC is charged with considering both the financial and academic aspects of program development, this is the sort of independent, expert advice which ought to be received appreciatively and without the undue narrowness reflected in the oft-repeated reply mentioned above. They are, after all, recommendations not binding declarations.