

TWO (2) YEAR POST CYCLICAL PROGRAM REVIEW MONITORING REPORT

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

| PROGRAM | IQAP REVIEW DATE | SENATE APPROVED |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Religions and Cultures | September 27, 2022 | July 14, 2023 |

PROGRESS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

| RECOMMENDATION | % COMPLETE | RESPONSIBLE MEMBER/UNIT | STATUS IF NOT COMPLETED, PLEASE PROVIDE PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE |
|--|------------|-------------------------|--|
| Explore college pathways and micro credential development outside of program offerings | n/a | Unit and Dean | There are no obvious college pathways for this program. Susan Srigley has pursued the possibility of a death studies micro credential /online course but without institutional support this has remained unachievable. As it currently stands, the RLCT program is likely to be absorbed into the existing Sociology degree over the next twelve months. |
| Consider combining programming with GESJ | 75% | Unit and Dean | RLCT is part of a much broader conversation about the future of small programs in Arts & Science at Nipissing. At this stage, it seems likely that over the next twelve months RLCT, GESJ, and Anthropology will be absorbed into Sociology and that that program that will be revamped in light of the additional faculty resources and specialties. |

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE

RLCT is aware of declining enrolment and loss of majors and has taken steps to be responsive to this in the interim as we consider the long-term future of the program and its potential for amalgamation. On June 14, 2024 Nipissing Senate approved the removal of the Specialization and Honours Specialization in Religions and Cultures, reducing the number of degree options in RLCT to a double major, major and a minor.

Department members Sal Renshaw and Susan Srigley met with the Dean in March 2025 to discuss the possibility of merging with cognate programs.

LIST OF ACTION ITEMS LEADING UP TO NEXT REVIEW

Since the review the RLCT department has lost one full-time faculty member to administration, thus significantly reducing its teaching capacity. Financial constraints of the university continue to put pressure on our ability to compensate for this loss with contract faculty.

As it stands, we only have 2.5 full-time faculty members, and it is unlikely that there will be any further commitment of faculty resources to warrant another review.

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS/NEXT STEPS – PLEASE ADD CONCLUDING SUMMARY REGARDING NEXT STEPS

Much will depend on administrative decisions and the openness of cognate programs to consider widening their programming to include the teaching specialties of faculty in Religions and Cultures.