

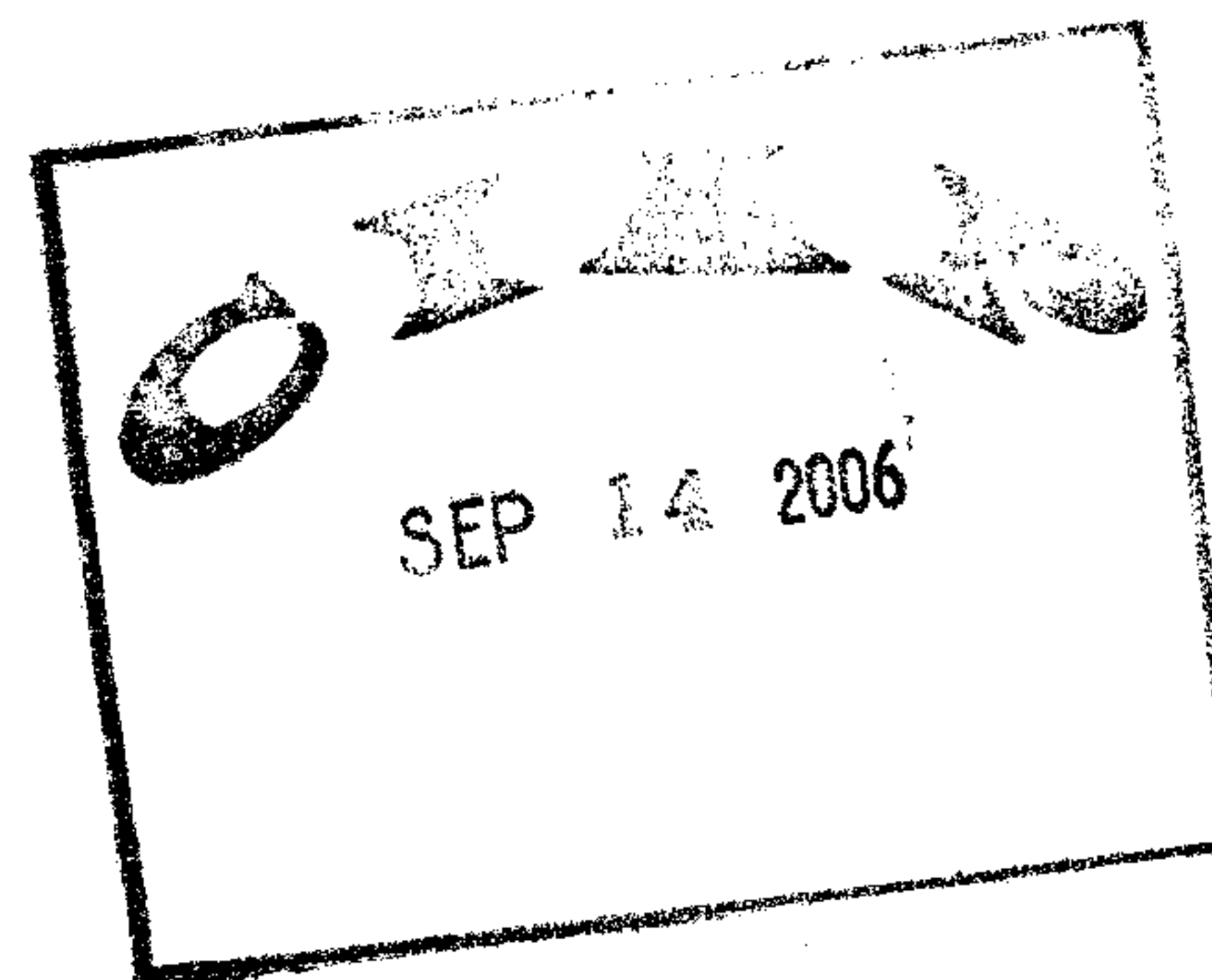


Memorial

University of Newfoundland

Office of the Dean
Faculty of Arts

September 13, 2006



TO: Ms. Robyn Saunders
Academic Program Review Coordinator

FROM: Reeta C. Tremblay
Dean, Faculty of Arts

SUBJECT: Academic Program Review: Final Action Plan, Department of Religious Studies

The final action plan for the Department of Religious Studies was recently forwarded to you. With a few exceptions, the actions envisaged in the plan are well under way, and a number are complete. Please let me know whether you have any questions or require any additional information.

Reeta C. Tremblay
Dean, Faculty of Arts

c: Head, Department of Religious Studies

Dean of Arts

SEP 11 2006

Received

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Academic Programme Review: Final Action Plan

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Undergraduate Programme Recommendations

Rec. #	Action #	Description	Responsibility	Completion Date	Followup
U1	U1.1	Dept. to discuss course rotation and proper balance among streams A, B, and C	Head in consultation with members of the Dept.	31 October 2005	Done
	U1.2	Depending on outcome of 1.1., Dept. may adjust course sequencing and relative balance among streams	Head in consultation with members of the Dept.	31 January 2006	Done
U2	U2.1	Recent recommendations on Research/Writing requirements for the BA proposed by Faculty of Arts Committee on Academic Planning had some bearing on this but were defeated by Faculty Council	Head in consultation with members of the Dept. & Associate Dean (Undergraduate) as required	Defer pending revision by Academic Planning	Done
	U2.2	Dept. will attempt to reach a clearer understanding of what is intended by the APR panel with regard to course sequencing and in particular whether there is really an issue requiring action	Head in consultation with members of the Dept.	31 October 2005	Done
	U2.3	Dept. will assess whether current balance between academic rigour and programme openness is appropriate	Head in consultation with members of the Dept.	31 October 2005	Done
U3	U3.1	Head will initiate a process to identify and clarify possible options and will seek feedback from members of the Dept. as a preliminary to a collective departmental assessment of the identified options	Head in consultation with members of the Dept.	30 November 2005	Done
	U4.1	Dept. will discuss whether there should be a common core or set of introductory courses that all students completing a Major should take	Head in consultation with members of the Dept.	31 October 2005	Done
U5	U5.1	Dept. will explore the potential value of reintroducing fourth-year courses on advanced topics	Head in consultation with members of the Dept.	31 January 2006	Discussion ongoing
	U5.2	Dept. will consider this recommendation in light of discussion on course sequencing (see 1.1 and 2.2)	Head in consultation with members of the Dept.	30 November 2005	Done

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U6	U6.1	Dept. is confident that current levels of contact are useful and appropriate: no action required	N/A	N/A	No action required
U7	U7.1	Dept. members are committed to maintaining active programmes of scholarly activity relevant to the discipline: no action required	N/A	N/A	No action required
Graduate Programme Recommendations					
Rec. #	Action #	Description	Responsibility	Completion Date	Followup
G1	G1.1	As per its response, the Dept. will review these courses to ensure that they provide both consistency and an adequate degree of methodological engagement	Head in consultation with members of the Dept.	31 October 2005	Discussion ongoing
	G1.2	Head will poll members of the Dept. to ascertain their views on the advisability and feasibility of team-taught courses; further action will depend on the outcome of this initial step	Head in consultation with members of the Dept.	31 October 2005	Discussion ongoing
	G1.3	The Dept. will revisit the question of the role the thesis should play in the MA programme	Head in consultation with members of the Dept.	31 October 2005	Discussion ongoing
G2	G2.1	Dept. will analyse requirements needed to support an annual intake of 5-6 students	Dept., in consultation with Associate Dean of Arts (Research & Graduate) as necessary	30 November 2005	Done
G3	G3.1	The Dept. will ensure awareness of this when new appointments are made	Members of the Dept.	N/A	Done
G4	G4.1	The question of graduate student space will be considered as the Facilities Plan for the Faculty is developed	Members of the Dept. in consultation with Dean of Arts, Facilities Management, and external consultants	31 December 2005	Done
G5	G5.1	The question of tracking alumni will be taken up with the Faculty of Arts Academic Advising Officer and Development Officer, when appointed	Dean of Arts	Following appointments	Refer to Dean of Arts

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G6	G6.1	Dept. will begin to lay the groundwork for applications that would support such appointments in advance of these retirements	Head in consultation with members of the Dept. and Dean of Arts	Subject to planned retirement dates	Discussion ongoing
G7	G7.1	Consideration of this initiative should be deferred and reconsidered in light of decisions taken under G6.1	Head in consultation with members of the Dept. and Associate Dean of Arts (Research and Graduate)	Subject to planned retirement dates	Discussion ongoing
Research and Scholarship Recommendations					
Rec. #	Action #	Description	Responsibility	Completion Date	Followup
R1	R1.1	Head of Dept. has learned from the Chair of the APR panel that the assertion that the Dept. is "slightly below average" on a national comparison basis originated with the external reviewers, who apparently offered no evidence to support it	Dept. will continue to assess its standing in comparison to similar depts. across Canada	Continuing	Research is always discussed on a continuing basis.
R2	R2.1	Head will poll members of the Dept. to ascertain the current level of participation and will report findings to the Dean of Arts	Head of Dept.	31 October 2005	Done
	R2.2	Members of the Dept. will continue to explore possibilities in this area, recognizing that leadership roles in such bodies are limited in number and that not all colleagues are prepared to assume them	Members of the Dept.	Continuing	Continuing.
R3	R3.1	Head has clarified the meaning of "large" grants in the context of this recommendation with the Chair of the APR panel and will discuss findings with the Dept.	Head in consultation with the Chair, APR, and members of the Dept.	31 October 2005	Decided against followup
	R3.2	It should be noted that one member of the Dept. is currently the PI on a very large application for funding connected with interdisciplinary research on the Moravian missions in Labrador	N/A	N/A	N/A
Faculty and Staff Recommendations					
Rec. #	Action #	Description	Responsibility	Completion Date	Followup
F1	F1.1	Broadening of admission requirements for the MA raises the possibility of supervision by all members of the Dept., who are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities	Members of the Dept.	Continuing	Continuing

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	F1.2	Head will consult the departmental Graduate Coordinator about how to ensure full participation by all members of the Dept. and will circulate all suggestions to members of the Dept. for comment	Head in consultation with Graduate Coordinator and members of the Dept.	31 October 2005	Done
F2	F2.1	Where graduate coordination is required, no action is required	N/A	N/A	N/A
	F2.2	The Dept. will reconsider its current undergraduate advising practices in light of the statements of good practice developed in the Faculty in 2002-03 and will make any adjustments deemed appropriate	Head in consultation with members of the Dept.	30 November 2005	Done
	F2.3	The Dept. will consider how best to make use of the services of the Faculty of Arts Academic Advising Officer, when appointed	Head in consultation with members of the Dept.	31 December 2005	Done
	F2.4	Head will invite suggestions from members of the Dept. concerning potential improvements to departmental governance, and will circulate all suggestions received for discussion, and will report the outcome of the discussion to the Dean of Arts	Head in consultation with members of the Dept.	31 December 2005	Done
	F2.5	Head will consult the Heads of other departments with formal or informal governance procedures and will circulate findings to members of the Dept.	Head in consultation with other Heads, Faculty of Arts	30 November 2005	Done
Community Service Recommendations					
Rec. #	Action #	Description	Responsibility	Completion Date	Followup
C1	C1.1	Students in the Dept. are already heavily involved in such activities; no action required	N/A	Continuing	No action required
C2	C2.1	Several members of the Dept. are already very active in this area; Head will explore potential new opportunities with the Faculty of Arts Communications Coordinator, when appointed	Head in consultation with Communications Coordinator	30 June 2005	Done
University Citizenship Recommendations					
Rec. #	Action #	Description	Responsibility	Completion Date	Followup
UC1	UC1.1	See action G7.1	As for G7.1	As for G7.1	Discussion ongoing

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	UC1.2	Dean of Arts will explore the feasibility of a multi-disciplinary doctoral programme in conjunction with the Associate Dean of Arts (Research & Graduate), the Faculty of Arts Committee on Graduate Studies, and other persons and bodies as appropriate	Dean of Arts, Associate Dean of Arts (Research & Graduate)	31 January 2006	Refer to Dean of Arts, Associate Dean of Arts (Research & Graduate)
University Support Recommendations					
Rec. #	Action #	Description	Responsibility	Completion Date	Followup
US1	US1.1	The importance of this principle is recognized by all parties	Dean of Arts	Continuing	Acknowledged
US2	US2.1	The need for undergraduate social and study space has been identified as a priority in the FRP for the Faculty of Arts Facilities Plan; the Dept. will have an opportunity to provide input as the plan is developed	Dean of Arts, members of the Dept.	31 December 2005	Acknowledged
US3	US3.1	The Faculty and the Dept. will use best efforts to provide adequate computing facilities for students over and above general computing laboratories	Dean of Arts, Head of Dept.	Continuing	Done and ongoing
US4	US4.1	The Dept. will consider this as part of the normal process of developing requests for tenure-track appointments	Head in consultation with members of the Dept.	Continuing	Acknowledged
US5	US5.1	The University will use its best efforts to provide as much fellowship support as possible within the context of budgetary limits	Dean, SGS, and senior administration	Continuing	Refer to Dean, SGS, and senior administration
	US5.2	Associate Dean of Arts (Research & Graduate) will ensure that the SSHRC Grants Facilitation Officer and all members of the Faculty of Arts are made aware of the importance of including funding for graduate students in all external funding applications where such funding is permissible	Associate Dean of Arts (Research & Graduate), Grants Facilitation Officer, Office of Research	Continuing	Refer to Associate Dean of Arts (Research & Graduate), Grants Facilitation Officer, Office of Research
Plans, Goals, and Resource Allocation Recommendation					
Rec. #	Action #	Description	Responsibility	Completion Date	Followup
P1	PI.1	The Dept. agrees in principle with this recommendation and will continue to think strategically about how to grow and develop	Members of the Dept.	Continuing	Acknowledged