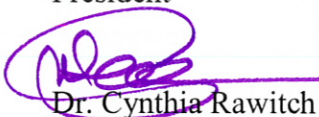


Memorandum

Date: June 18, 2012

To: Dr. Dianne Harrison
President

From: 
Dr. Cynthia Rawitch
Vice Provost

Subject: Final Memorandum of Understanding – Philosophy

The final phase of the program review process for the Department of Philosophy occurred on April 10, 2012. At this time the commendations and recommendations from the external reviewers' report were discussed. Present at the meeting were: Cynthia Rawitch, Vice Provost, Academic Affairs; Elizabeth Say, Dean, College of Humanities; Tim Black, Chair, Department of Philosophy; Adam Swenson, Associate Chair, Department of Philosophy; Cindy D. Stern, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy; Don Brownlee, EPC Representative; and Bonnie Paller, Director of Academic Assessment and Program Review.

Dr. Rawitch congratulated the program on its strengths as identified by the commendations in the external reviewers' report. A discussion of the reviewers' commendations and recommendations followed.

The attached MOU is the final understanding between the department and the college.

Attachment: MOU

cc: Elizabeth Say, Dean, College of Humanities
Tim Black, Chair, Department of Philosophy
Don Brownlee, EPC Representative
Bonnie Paller, Director of Academic Assessment and Program Review

**Department of Philosophy
Program Review - 2011-2012**

Memorandum of Understanding

Commendations

1. The Department provides a broad, well-integrated knowledge of the discipline.
2. The Department's choice of a new chair will bring leadership qualities based on an intelligent vision, realism and commitment.
3. The Faculty are doing an admirable job of making themselves available to students and providing advice that students both need and highly value.
4. The Faculty emphasize working with students on effective oral and written communication skills, critical thinking, and effective reading of philosophic texts and the processing of these texts.
5. The Faculty are commended for the introduction of stand-alone courses in epistemology, metaphysics and philosophy of mind. These curricular changes represent a significant improvement in areas recognized as central to a contemporary philosophical educational experience.
6. The Faculty are actively engaged in scholarship that informs the curriculum and updates the knowledge base used as the foundation of classes.
7. The Department is commended for early development of a rubric-based assessment protocol and its continual use over the past seven years. This instrument and the overall assessment effort have shown improvement in student learning over time.

8. The Department continues to provide a high-quality educational experience for students despite the fiscal crisis the CSU faces.

Recommendations

1. The Department needs to address the concern that there is not enough emphasis on the Continental tradition in European philosophy. In particular, the Department should consider developing the curricular means to focus more attention on historical and contemporary European thought.
2. The Department should continue its current initiatives to assist students in academic advising and career guidance.
3. The Department should continue support for the Center for Ethics and Values and the Center for Sex and Gender Research. These important efforts support the overall University mission by helping address contemporary social concerns.
4. The Faculty should continue its “brown bag” seminar series, which focuses primarily on pedagogical issues such as the development of students’ oral and written communication skills, critical thinking, and the effective reading of philosophic texts.
5. The Faculty should continue to promote student-faculty interaction and provide opportunities for students to offer feedback to faculty and the Department.
6. The Department and College should continue to address problems of gender discrimination. In particular, they should sustain their efforts to make the atmosphere more conducive to the full participation of women.

Understanding: The Dean points out that the Department has taken steps to address the issues, given the continued dominance of men in the discipline. The two recent hires are

women. The Department is working to create a more inclusive culture and an atmosphere more conducive to the full participation of women faculty, staff, and students.

7. The Department should continue its efforts to address issues of diversity with respect to faculty, students and curriculum.

Understanding: A new curriculum package is being guided through approval which will address some of these issues.

8. The Chair should consider how best to address student requests to be more involved in curriculum development and Department affairs. The students expressed interest in committee work and other Department activities.
9. The Department, College and University should continue to seek internal and external resources to give faculty sufficient reassigned time to pursue their research interests. Such investments will help maintain the Department's reputation, keep faculty engaged and inform curriculum with the latest developments in philosophy.
10. The Department, College and University should continue to seek support for additional hires, including those who may help in the development of an academic focus on historical and contemporary European thought.

Understanding: The Department's current strategic plan includes hiring faculty in this academic focus and, more generally, faculty who work outside the Western analytic tradition while nevertheless maintaining a connection with that tradition.