

### APR Mid-Cycle Check-In

**Unit Name: PHILOSOPHY**

**Previous APR Site-Visit Dates: October 5-6, 2017**

**Next Scheduled APR: Spring 2025**

#### Unit Chair: Updates to Recommendations

*Address all APR-related recommendations incorporated in the Unit Response and Action Plan documents, **adding rows as necessary**. New initiatives can be included and discussed, even if they were not included in the Unit Response or Action Plan.*

<b>Reviewer Recommendation or Finding</b>	<b>Action Taken since Review</b>	<b>Future Action</b>
<i>Describe the recommendation for change that resulted from the self-study, external review, department response, and initial action plan.</i>	<i>Describe the actions taken to implement the recommendation. If none, why?</i>	<i>Describe additional actions planned to implement the recommendation, or changes in the unit affecting implementation of recommendation.</i>
Revise Department website to better reflect and publicize the Department's strengths, especially in terms of its graduate programs	The faculty are happy with the changes we made along these lines during AY 2017-2018. Moreover, the Chair currently is overseeing website updates emphasizing the attractiveness of our graduate program.	Our website is currently being modified again to make it more easily navigable, and to make our course offerings, past and present, more obvious.
So as to add more diversity to our undergraduate curriculum in line with the APR Site Visit Report's urgings along these lines, now, majors must take four, rather than five, elective courses; In place of a fifth elective course, they now will be required to take one of our three-hundred-level courses in non-Western philosophy (i.e., PHIL 333: Buddhist Philosophy, PHIL	The Chair sought the requisite curriculum change approvals at the College level during AY 2018-2019. In 2022, we also did away with the prerequisite requirements for the non-Western courses in order to boost enrollment numbers.	

<p>334: Indian Philosophy, or PHIL 336: Chinese Philosophy).</p>		
<p>So as to add more diversity to our undergraduate curriculum in line with the APR Site Visit Report's urgings along these lines, we will offer, every year to year-and-a-half, a team-taught upper-division undergraduate course. Since we have a unique mix of faculty specializing in Western and non-Western philosophies, we intend this regular course offering to be taught specifically by a combination of one Western and one non-Western faculty specialist. This would provide more advanced undergraduate students with opportunities to explore the convergences and divergences between multiple philosophical traditions from various parts of the world.</p>	<p>The Chair is encouraging faculty to think about this in light of their near-term future teaching preferences. Team teaching initiatives have been on the rise in recent years: Pierre-Julien Harter and Paul Livingston co-taught a course on 'Spinoza and Vasubandhu,' in AY Adrian Johnston co-taught a class on 'Interdisciplinary Marxisms' with colleagues from Anthropology and History, and Ann Murphy and Emily McRae have plans to co-teach a course on 'Philosophies of Death and Dying' during the next academic year.</p>	<p>The faculty should return to this recommendation at their January 2023 retreat.</p>
<p>So as to add more diversity to our undergraduate curriculum in line with the APR Site Visit Report's urgings along these lines, we will start offering on a regular basis a tenure-stream-faculty-taught supersection of PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy. This super-section would be devoted each time to a pluralistic, global approach to philosophy, emphasizing a multitude of cultures and traditions Western and non-Western alike. This would be a new way to introduce</p>	<p>The Chair is encouraging faculty to think about this in light of their near-term future teaching preferences.</p>	<p>We have yet to implement this. The faculty should return to this recommendation at their January 2023 retreat.</p>

<p>philosophy to lower-division undergraduate students.</p>		
<p>In line with the APR Site Visit Report, the faculty want the Chair to pursue establishing a 4 + 1 M.A. program in which UNM philosophy majors receive their B.A. in four years, take some graduate level courses during their fourth year, and stay an extra year to complete the requirements for an M.A.</p>	<p>The 4+1 program was successfully implemented in AY 21-22.</p>	<p>We would like to boost the number of students electing to participate in this program. We will continue to rigorously advertise this option to our majors.</p>
<p>As stressed by the Report, it is imperative for us to start admitting more Ph.D. students as soon as possible. For the past several years, we have been allowed by the College of Arts and Sciences to admit only two funded doctoral students per year. The Report pleads for four to six Ph.D. admits per year. Moreover, we agree that not only do the numbers of admitted students per year need to increase—the funding packages for each admitted Ph.D. student should be more generous in order for us to compete with the other graduate programs our applicants typically are considering. An increase of \$1000-\$2000 per year to each T.A. line would help significantly. Being able to offer more graduate-level only (rather than hybrid graduate/undergraduate) seminars would help with Ph.D. recruitment too.</p>	<p>In Spring 2018, Dean Mark Peceny kindly agreed to allow the Department to start admitting three Ph.D. students per year, beginning during the admissions process in AY 2018-2019. Unfortunately this was rescinded during the pandemic. Dean Mafi has approved an additional TA-ship attached to Ann Murphy’s chairship, but our understanding is that this increase in funding is only temporary.</p>	<p>There are few issues as important to the health of our program as this one. The Chair will continue to lobby for funds to expand our doctoral program.</p>

<p><b>HIRING:</b></p> <p>We have acute hiring needs in Ancient Philosophy and Analytic Philosophy, as well as Latin American Philosophy and Native American Philosophy. Our faculty is struggling to deliver the curriculum.</p>	<p>The Chair is continuing to lobby for a hire, but we have not been granted a hire in over five years, despite having lost 4 faculty since 2015. None of these retirement or resignations have been replaced.</p>	
<p>So as to address graduate student concerns about departmental governance, our tenure-stream faculty voted to allow one or two non-voting graduate student representatives, to be selected by the graduate students themselves, regularly to attend the non-confidential portions of faculty meetings starting in August 2018. One to two such graduate student representatives will attend next month's retreat, as well as subsequent faculty meetings during the academic year.</p>	<p>This practice was immediately implemented.</p>	<p>This practice will continue.</p>
<p>So as to meet graduate students demands for more faculty guidance, we decided to completely revamp the proseminar requirement for graduate students. The proseminar will be reoriented from being about faculty members' current research (now to be showcased through in-house colloquia presentations instead) to focusing on mentoring apropos teaching and professionalization. We plan to hold approximately five workshops per academic year for the graduate</p>	<p>The Proseminar format was revised in the immediate wake of the last APR to focus more on professional development and less on individual faculty's research profiles.</p>	<p>Investigate and implement other initiatives that would help the graduate students as they begin to teach PHIL 1115 and PHIL 1120.</p>

<p>students, with the exact number of workshops and the topics covered to be decided by a faculty sub-committee. Individual faculty members will take turns volunteering at the start of each academic year to run workshop sessions on various subjects relating to teaching and professionalization.</p>		
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**Unit Chair: Assessment Reflection**

*Consider the unit’s assessment practices since the last APR. Please provide a small narrative reflecting on assessment impact, strengths, concerns, or obstacles that exist within the unit, focusing on those areas that would be well-served by leadership feedback and/or highlighted to reviewers at the unit’s next APR.*

We successfully implemented many of the suggestions that were made by the site-visit team in spring of 2017. We started a 4+1 advanced-MA program, supported team-teaching initiatives, and have made many steps to provide greater guidance to our graduate students. Our most urgent needs remain unchanged, however, namely the increase in TA funding for our doctoral program and need for faculty hires.

We were briefly granted the opportunity to admit three doctoral students per year (as opposed to the usual two), but this allowance was only in place one year before we were asked to admit only two. As Chair, I have been granted a TA-ship attached to my chairship, for which we are grateful, but we are hoping for a more durable arrangement that can support an increase in numbers in our PhD program.

Over the past eight years, the Philosophy Department has decreased in size from 14 to 9 tenure/tenure track faculty. We are in dire need of hiring opportunities. We are not currently able to cover all the areas of research and teaching expertise that would be typical of an R1 philosophy department.

We have acute hiring needs in Ancient Philosophy, Analytic Philosophy, Latin American Philosophy, and Native American Philosophy. Our department already claims an internationally recognized profile with strengths in Southeast Asian Philosophy and Continental Philosophy. Our goal is to fortify and build upon these strengths. In the long term, we also aspire to strengthen and build upon the pluralism that has long been a notable feature of our departmental profile.

