



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Agenda Committee

SPONSOR: Sioban Nelson, Vice Provost, Academic Programs
CONTACT INFO: (416) 978-2122, vpacademicprograms@utoronto.ca

PRESENTER: See above
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: March 31 for April 12, 2016

AGENDA ITEM: 1(a)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Follow-up Report on Reviews: Christianity and Culture Programs (Faculty of Arts & Science)

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) is the point of entry into governance for reports, summaries and administrative responses on the results of reviews of academic programs and units commissioned by academic administrators. The role of the Committee is to ensure that the reviews are conducted in accordance with University policy and guidelines, that an appropriate process has been followed, that adequate documentation is provided and consultations undertaken, and that issues identified in the review are addressed by the administration. Under the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process, the AP&P may request a one-year follow-up report when concerns are raised in an external review that require a longer period of response.

This report is forwarded, together with the record of the Committee's discussion, to the Agenda Committee of the Academic Board, which determines whether there are any issues of general academic significance warranting discussion at the Board level. The same documentation is also sent to the Executive Committee and Governing Council for information.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. Committee on Academic Policy and Programs [for information] (March 30, 2016)
2. **Agenda Committee [for information] (April 12, 2016)**
3. Academic Board [for information] (April 21, 2016)
4. Executive Committee of the Governing Council [for information] (May 9, 2016)

5. Governing Council [for information] (May 19, 2016)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

On March 31, 2015, the AP&P considered the October 2014 review of the Christianity and Culture undergraduate programs (Specialist, Major, Minor in Christianity and Culture and Minor in Christianity and Education) together with the accompanying decanal response. The AP&P requested a one-year follow-up report on the curriculum renewal, faculty complement, student recruitment, and the outcome of the program retreat(s).

HIGHLIGHTS:

Since the 2013-14 review, the Faculty of Arts & Science and the Program Director of the Christianity and Culture programs have undertaken a number of changes to the programs' curriculum, including suspending of admission to the Specialist program and reviewing the major program. They have discussed faculty resource requirements, increased recruitment efforts, and held four faculty retreats in 2015.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Christianity and Culture Programs (Faculty of Arts & Science): Follow-up Letter from Dean David Cameron, March 2, 2016



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

2 March 2016

Professor Sioban Nelson
Vice-Provost Academic Programs
University of Toronto

Dear Sioban,

I am writing in response to the request by the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) in regards to the October 2014 external review of the Christianity and Culture Undergraduate Programs. At its meeting of March 31, 2015, AP&P requested a one-year follow-up report addressing the progress on curriculum renewal, faculty complement, student recruitment, and the outcome of the program retreat(s). The Faculty has worked with the Program Director to address the concerns of the AP&P committee.

Progress on curriculum renewal:

- As recommended by the reviewers, admission to the specialist program was suspended in the spring of 2015, with a proposed plan of closure once all currently enrolled students have completed the program.
- The program requested and was approved, at the November 2015 Humanities curriculum committee, the re-weighting of three Y courses to H courses (SMC 216Y, SMC 307Y, SMC 330Y), providing students with flexibility in choosing courses.
- The program is currently in the process of reviewing the Christianity and Culture major with a focus of new core areas and more articulated emphasis on global Christianity.
- A proposal for a new major in Christianity and Education is being considered to respond to the closure of the Concurrent Teacher Education Programme (CTEP) in Religious Education.
- Two new minors are being proposed in Christianity and Canada and Christianity and Music which build on the interests of students.

Faculty Complement:

- Discussions between the Faculty of Arts and Science, the Program Director and St. Michael's College on resource requirements are a priority to ensure the quality of the program and its teaching.

Recruitment:

- The program has worked to increase recruitment efforts through the following events and initiatives: (1) A one-day conference was organized by Brebeuf Collegiate, in consultation with GTA catholic schools; (2) a symposium was organized on the Pope's encyclical on ecology; (3) the programs sponsored public lectures by high-profile speakers in Catholic higher education and Christianity and science; (4) the program was integrated into the Backpack to Briefcase program, with the participation of current students and alumni; (5) several public concerts were organized, inviting members of the Christianity and Culture community (including GTA high schools) on themes related to Christian liturgy.

Retreat:

- The program's core faculty met for four retreats in 2015, including three half-day sessions on April 14, June 8, September 8 and October 14. Discussions at these meetings involved confirming the identity statement for Christianity and Culture, re-articulating the core areas for the program, curriculum revisions, potential post-doctoral fellowship program and the creation of a new program advisory committee. Outcomes of the retreats were the proposals for strengthening web presence, revising and streamlining course offerings and the new major and minors as mentioned above. The Director will meet with the Dean's Office to present the results of the retreats and to discuss an implementation plan for the items discussed above, as appropriate.

I feel confident that the changes initiated by the program and its faculty address the concerns of the AP&P follow-up request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Cameron". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Cameron
Dean and Professor of Political Science

cc: Professor Domenico Pietropaolo, Principal, St. Michael's College