

Philosophy Department Annual Report 2011-2012

College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences
California State University, East Bay
(Approved by the Department Faculty 5/10/12)

1. Brief Self-Study

Not unlike 10-11, the Philosophy Department has enjoyed relative stability in AY 11-12. Most of our projects this year have involved trying to move forward, grow, serve our students and rebuild our lecturer pool.

The Philosophy Department has accomplished (or tried to accomplish) the following goals stated in our 10-11 Annual Report.

- We have continued our success in maintaining the major, increasing FTEs (relative to our allocation), student activities (including our very popular student club and online journal), and curricular innovation.
- We have hired new lecturers to replenish those that were lost due to budget cuts in Spring 2010. They are highly qualified and a welcome infusion of new energy.
- We submitted a request for a new tenure track faculty member in the area of Philosophy of Science, but this proposal was “Recommended” (a status between “Highly Recommended” and “Justified”) by the Dean in consultation with the Council of Chairs.

The following reflects the Philosophy Department’s additional accomplishments during the 11-12 AY:

- The number of Philosophy majors and minors has steadily increased, now with a count of 47; and 14 minors (from requested IRA report, Fall 2011).
- The Philosophy Department participated in six Freshman Clusters this year.
- Philosophy students and faculty have continued to sustain the energy and enthusiasm for our student club, the Philosophy Society. We have sustained a pace of 3 meetings per quarter. These meetings have averaged about 20 people in attendance for each meeting. One meeting included a trip to Cal to see a lecture by Peter Singer. We can continue to make a case for being among the most successful academic clubs on campus.
- We will again publish a new edition of our on-line student journal, *Reflections*, showcasing our students’ work. Students and faculty are currently working on this edition.
- This Spring, the department will award the fourth annual Prestigious Bassen Prize, an essay contest with a small scholarship awarded to the first and second place winners.

Our goals for AY 12-13 consist of essentially the same goals as in 11-12. If we have not progressed as much as we would have liked, that can be attributed to the budget crisis and to the budget crisis and the policies of CLASS and Academic Affairs attempting to deal with the crisis.

- Continuing our success in the areas of increasing the numbers of majors, increasing FTEs, student activities (including our very popular student club and online journal), and curricular innovation.
- Re-creating the Religious Studies minor and major option at our earliest opportunity and changing the name of the department as soon as possible.
- Hiring new tenure track faculty members in the areas of Philosophy of Science and in the History of Philosophy as soon as possible.

2. Assessment

This year, the Philosophy Department has revised its Student Learning Outcomes to better fit our relatively new open menu major, and to pare them down in number. They were approved by the faculty on 3//14/12 and are as follows:

- 1) Philosophy majors will be able to write clear, academically rigorous, argumentative essays.
- 2) Philosophy majors will be able to read complex texts, create original arguments, analyze the arguments of others, and express these criticisms orally and in writing.
- 3) Philosophy majors will demonstrate knowledge of philosophical and/or religious traditions, their relevant concepts, theories, methods, and historical contexts.
- 4) Philosophy majors will develop their capacities for ethical decision-making, Socratic humility, openness to the ideas of others, reflective self-awareness, and a life-long curiosity about big questions.
- 5) Philosophy majors will cultivate an appreciation for a diversity of ideas and values across time and for human difference in areas such as: religion, culture, ethnicity, race, class, sexuality, and gender.

The Philosophy Faculty will complete and approve their new Assessment Plan by the end of this quarter. This new plan will represent our new open curriculum and our newer course offerings. In its draft form, this plan includes:

- 1) Surveys of Alumni and Current Majors (to be conducted in alternating years).
- 2) A system of portfolio assessment for majors. These will consist of three academic papers submitted by senior Philosophy majors scored by a committee of faculty members in the department using a rubric designed to reflect achievement our new SLOs.
- 3) Other assessment activities as created by the faculty.

An example of these “other assessment activities”, Drs. Hall and Eagan are working on a video including student interviews about their experience with diversity (speaking to SLO #5), which they will share as a part of the University’s Diversity Day celebration. As part of his work with the CLASS Assessment group in 10-11, Dr. Moreman collected data in the form of a student survey. Dr. Eagan has collected writing portfolios from majors and is developing a rubric for their evaluation as part of the CLASS Assessment Team. The faculty will analyze these two data sets (direct and indirect) together, completing their work at the beginning of Fall quarter 2012. Results of these analyses will be included in the next Annual Report.

3. Statistics from Institutional Research for 2006-2009/10

Fall 2009/ Philosophy Major and Ethnic Group		Female			Male		
		Head-count	% Gender	% Ethnic	Head-count	% Gender	% Ethnic
		Philosophy	Black, non-Hispanic	2	50.0	14.29	2
	Asian or Pacific Islander	1	12.5	7.14	7	87.5	22.58
	Hispanic	1	25.0	7.14	3	75.0	9.68
	White	4	25.0	28.57	12	75.0	38.71
	Race/ethnicity unknown	6	46.2	42.86	7	53.8	22.58
	All	14	31.1	100	31	68.9	100

Philosophy	Fall Quarter				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
A. Students Headcount					
1. Undergraduate	29	35	37	45	40
2. Postbaccalaureate	1	0	3	3	1
3. Graduate	0	0	0	0	0
4. Total Number of Majors	30	35	40	48	41

	College Years				
	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10
B. Degrees Awarded					
1. Undergraduate	7	6	10	9	9
2. Graduate	0	0	0	0	0
3. Total	7	6	10	9	9
	Fall Quarter				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
C. Faculty					
Tenured/Track Headcount					
1. Full-Time	4	3	4	4	4
2. Part-Time	0	0	0	0	0
3a. Total Tenure Track	4	3	4	4	4
3b. % Tenure Track	33.3%	30.0%	40.0%	40.0%	66.7%
Lecturer Headcount					
4. Full-Time	0	0	0	0	2
5. Part-Time	8	7	6	6	0
6a. Total Non-Tenure Track	8	7	6	6	2
6b. % Non-Tenure Track	66.7%	70.0%	60.0%	60.0%	33.3%
7. Grand Total All Faculty	12	10	10	10	6
Instructional FTE Faculty (FTEF)					
8. Tenured/Track FTEF	3.0	1.0	3.4	3.1	3.3
9. Lecturer FTEF	5.7	6.0	3.5	4.6	1.8
10. Total Instructional FTEF	8.7	7.0	6.8	7.7	5.1
Lecturer Teaching					
11a. FTES Taught by Tenure/Track	45.6	31.6	61.1	73.6	85.1
11b. % of FTES Taught by Tenure/Track	22.4%	19.1%	35.2%	34.8%	53.1%
12a. FTES Taught by Lecturer	158.4	133.6	112.3	137.9	75.2
12b. % of FTES Taught by Lecturer	77.6%	80.9%	64.8%	65.2%	46.9%
13. Total FTES taught	204.0	165.2	173.3	211.5	160.3
14. Total SCU taught	3060.0	2478.0	2600.0	3172.0	2404.0
D. Student Faculty Ratios					
1. Tenured/Track	15.2	31.6	18.1	24.0	25.5
2. Lecturer	27.7	22.3	32.4	30.0	41.8
3. SFR By Level (All Faculty)	23.4	23.6	25.4	27.6	31.2
4. Lower Division	29.0	28.7	33.6	27.9	33.4
5. Upper Division	20.1	20.8	20.7	27.3	27.6
6. Graduate	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
E. Section Size					
1. Number of Sections Offered	29.0	24.0	25.0	26.0	21.0
2. Average Section Size	27.3	26.9	26.0	31.6	32.8
3. Average Section Size for LD	31.5	29.9	31.1	31.7	33.5
4. Average Section Size for UD	24.5	25.0	22.6	31.6	31.3
5. Average Section Size for GD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
6. LD Section taught by Tenured/Track	4	1	4	4	5
7. UD Section taught by Tenured/Track	3	4	5	6	8
8. GD Section taught by Tenured/Track	0	0	0	0	0
9. LD Section taught by Lecturer	7	8	6	8	7
10. UD Section taught by Lecturer	15	11	10	8	1
11. GD Section taught by Lecturer	0	0	0	0	0