

Philosophy Department Annual Report 2010-2011

College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences
California State University, East Bay

Approved by the Department Faculty, May 6, 2011***

1. Brief Self-Study

The story of last year's annual report was the effects of the budget cuts on our program, lecturer, and reduced course offerings. While we are still feeling the effects, this has been a year of relative stability. Most of our projects this year have involved trying to move forward, grow, and serve our students in spite of reduced resources, staff, courses, and lecturer faculty. We have had several points of good news coming from our alumni, which we will report below.

The Philosophy Department has accomplished (or tried to accomplish) the following goals stated in our 09-10 Annual Report.

- We have continued our success in the areas of increasing the numbers of majors, increasing FTEs (relative to our allocation), student activities (including our very popular student club and online journal), and curricular innovation.
- We submitted a request to change the name of the department from the Department of Philosophy to the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, to reflect our growing number of courses in our allied but very different discipline. Though passed through the Academic Senate, this request was not signed by the President. Efforts to re-submit this request have been stopped at the College level.
- We submitted a proposal to revive the Religious Studies Minor. This proposal was blocked by the Interim Dean of CLASS, who claimed that the Provost had declared a moratorium on new programs. We have yet to hear this news shared in a public announcement.
- We submitted a request for a new tenure track faculty member in the area of Philosophy of Science, but this proposal did not go forward to the Provost's Office, in spite of the STEM initiative.

Even with these setbacks, we remain committed to growing the presence of Religious Studies on campus, and plan to move forward with these proposals for a name change, revived minor, and option in the major as soon as we are able to. We would still very much like to hire new tenure track faculty members in the areas of Philosophy of Science and in the History of Philosophy as soon as possible.

The following reflects the Philosophy Department's accomplishments during the 10-11 AY:

- The number of Philosophy majors has steadily increased, now with an official count of 45; and we remain at an approximate count of 10 minors.
- Subject to approval by the Academic Senate, the Philosophy Department plans to participate in seven Freshman Clusters next year.
- The Department has successfully created two new courses this year, continuing to develop our curriculum in the area of Religious Studies, PHIL 3430 *The Bible and Film* and PHIL 3433 *Views of the Afterlife*. We have also successfully offered our cross-listed course PHIL/ES 3721 *African-American Philosophy* for the first time, increasing the diversity and scope of our curriculum. These courses also serve GE students.
- 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 3-5 meetings per quarter. These meetings have averaged about 20 people in attendance for each meeting. I think that we can make a case for being among the most successful academic clubs on campus.
- This Spring, 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 third annual Prestigious Bassen Prize, an essay contest with an small scholarship awarded to the first and second place winners.

- We have received quite a bit of good news from our alumni lately. Tyrus Fisher has been accepted to the Ph.D. program in Philosophy at UC Davis, Victor Ma will be finishing his MA in Philosophy from SF State and will be applying to Ph.D. programs, Josh England is headed to law school, and Ryvenna Lewis has started the MPA program at CSU East Bay.

Our goals for AY 10-11 consist of many of the same goals as 09-10, since some of our projects were put on hold:

- 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.
- 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

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

- 1) A potential revision of our mission statement
- 2) A revision of our program SLOs
- 3) Surveys of Alumni and Current Majors (to be conducted in alternating years).
- 4) 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 SLOs.

Dr. Chris Moreman is part of the CLASS Assessment Group and will be working on our major survey. Dr. Eagan is working on a pilot of our portfolio plan in her Spring course, PHIL 4606 *Seminar in Philosophy*.

The Philosophy Program gathered no assessment data this year, having put our work on the new assessment plan on hold last year due to the budget crisis. Frankly, managing scarce resources and classes took up all of our time. Though we are back on track now, we still have some obstacles in terms of a lack of resources. Reduced staffing and technical support makes these efforts difficult. Faculty members are very much on their own in creating and administering these assessment measures, and we would love some help.

3. Statistics from Institutional Research for 2005-2009

Fall 2009/ Philosophy Major and Ethnic Group		Female			Male		
		Head-coun	% Gender	% Ethnic	Head-coun	% Gender	% Ethnic
Philosophy	Black, non-Hispanic	2	50.0	14.29	2	50.0	6.45
	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

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APR Summary Data

Fall 2005 - 2009

Philosophy	Fall Quarter				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
A. Students Headcount					
1. Undergraduate	23	29	35	37	45
2. Postbaccalaureate	1	1	0	3	3
3. Graduate	0	0	0	0	0
4. Total Number of Majors	24	30	35	40	48
College Years					
B. Degrees Awarded					
	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09
1. Undergraduate	8	7	6	10	9
2. Graduate	0	0	0	0	0
3. Total	8	7	6	10	9
Fall Quarter					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
C. Faculty					
Tenured/Track Headcount					
1. Full-Time	4	4	3	4	4
2. Part-Time	0	0	0	0	0
3a. Total Tenure Track	4	4	3	4	4
3b. % Tenure Track	33.3%	33.3%	30.0%	40.0%	40.0%
Lecturer Headcount					
4. Full-Time	0	0	0	0	0
5. Part-Time	8	8	7	6	6
6a. Total Non-Tenure Track	8	8	7	6	6
6b. % Non-Tenure Track	66.7%	66.7%	70.0%	60.0%	60.0%
7. Grand Total All Faculty	12	12	10	10	10
Instructional FTE Faculty (FTEF)					
8. Tenured/Track FTEF	2.7	3.0	1.0	3.4	3.1
9. Lecturer FTEF	4.9	5.7	6.0	3.5	4.6
10. Total Instructional FTEF	7.6	8.7	7.0	6.8	7.7
Lecturer Teaching					
11a. FTES Taught by Tenure/Track	37.3	45.6	31.6	61.1	73.6
11b. % of FTES Taught by Tenure/Track	20.7%	22.4%	19.1%	35.2%	34.8%
12a. FTES Taught by Lecturer	142.9	158.4	133.6	112.3	137.9
12b. % of FTES Taught by Lecturer	79.3%	77.6%	80.9%	64.8%	65.2%
13. Total FTES taught	180.3	204.0	165.2	173.3	211.5
14. Total SCU taught	2704.0	3060.0	2478.0	2600.0	3172.0
D. Student Faculty Ratios					
1. Tenured/Track	14.0	15.2	31.6	18.1	24.0
2. Lecturer	29.0	27.7	22.3	32.4	30.0
3. SFR By Level (All Faculty)	23.7	23.4	23.6	25.4	27.6
4. Lower Division	28.5	29.0	28.7	33.6	27.9
5. Upper Division	20.9	20.1	20.8	20.7	27.3
6. Graduate	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
E. Section Size					
1. Number of Sections Offered	25.0	29.0	24.0	25.0	26.0
2. Average Section Size	28.1	27.3	26.9	26.0	31.6
3. Average Section Size for LD	29.7	31.5	29.9	31.1	31.7
4. Average Section Size for UD	27.0	24.5	25.0	22.6	31.6
5. Average Section Size for GD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

6. LD Section taught by Tenured/Track	1	4	1	4	4
7. UD Section taught by Tenured/Track	6	3	4	5	6
8. GD Section taught by Tenured/Track	0	0	0	0	0
9. LD Section taught by Lecturer	9	7	8	6	8
10. UD Section taught by Lecturer	9	15	11	10	8
11. GD Section taught by Lecturer	0	0	0	0	0