

DRAFT  
Memorandum of Understanding

Religious Studies  
College of Liberal Arts  
February 2018 (for 2017 review)

This Memorandum of Understanding outlines the consensus reached by the Department of Religious Studies, the College of Liberal Arts, and the Division of Academic Affairs, based on the recently conducted program review. It describes the goals to be achieved, and the actions to be undertaken by all parties to this MOU to achieve these goals, during the next program review cycle. Progress toward goals is to be addressed in the annual report.

The Department of Religious Studies completed its previous program review in 2010. In the period since the previous review, the department has acted on the action items agreed to in the 2010 MOU by developing several new curricular offerings in the areas of gender and sexuality in the world religions and the role of religion in ethnic, gender, and sexual diversity. They have also added new general education courses and renamed/restructured several courses to provide more contemporary course offerings. They have developed the Department's first two online courses, and they are planning to offer another course online. The Department offers the only MA in Religious Studies in the CSU system.

A number of strengths were identified in the program review reports. Reviewers noted the impressive research and publishing activity of the faculty, and academic awards and honors indicate that many faculty are active researchers and members of their professional associations. Although the FTES of the humanities generally and that of the Department specifically has declined, the Department's persistence and graduation rates of students in its programs are good.

An issue identified in the program review was declining enrollments. The number of undergraduate majors has decreased from 34 students in 2012 to 16 students in 2016, and the Department has experienced a downward trend in FTES. In addition, the reviewers identified the lack of a plan for direct programmatic assessment of student learning outcomes. A final issue arising from the review is the loss of tenured and tenure-track faculty in recent years. In comparison to the last review period, the Department now has 3.8 fewer FTEF due to a variety of reasons.

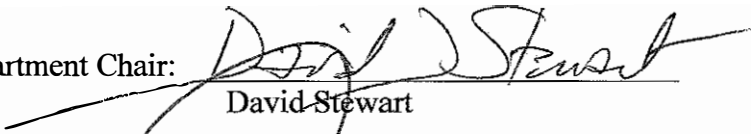

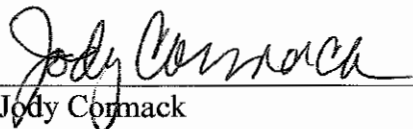
It is therefore agreed that:

1. The Department will implement a continuous program of assessment of programmatic outcomes and student learning outcomes across the curriculum, including General Education offerings, the Bachelor's program, and the Master's Program. This assessment should also include a revised curriculum map, and a substantive assessment plan detailing "closing the loop" strategies. Program assessment is crucial for determining the need for program revision. Therefore, no new curriculum will be considered for approval until

assessment of the current program is completed. The only exceptions will be courses currently in development by the Department's new faculty member shared with Classics and R/ST 403/503.

2. The College will work with the Department to establish a tenure-track hiring plan.
3. The Department will investigate and develop methods to increase the number of student majors:
  - a. implement a communication plan to improve UCUA and ATLAS advising and marketing to potential majors;
  - b. investigate completion of articulation agreements with Community Colleges to facilitate transfer students entering the major;
  - c. participate in the new 1<sup>st</sup> year experience program for incoming freshman.
4. The Department will provide an annual update (due June 1) on progress made towards the actions agreed to in this MOU to the CLA dean, the Vice Provost for Academic Programs, and the Director of Program Review and Assessment. Assessment for student and program learning outcomes will be completed for both the BA and the MA in Religious Studies. The review cycle will be from 2017-2024.
  - a. Core competency 1 and at least 1 course-specific student learning outcome or program outcome (per program) due June 2018
  - b. Core competency 2 and at least 1 course-specific student learning outcome or program outcome (per program) due June 2019
  - c. Selected assessment of at least 1 course-specific student learning outcomes and 1 program learning outcomes (per program) due June 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.
  - d. Comprehensive self-study due June 2024 for 2024-2025 Academic Year external review/UPRC report process.

This MOU has been read and approved by:

Department Chair:	 David Stewart	Date:	<u>2/9/18</u>
College Dean:	 David Wallace	Date:	<u>2/8/18</u>
Interim Vice Provost:	 Jody Cornack	Date:	<u>2-7-18</u>