Two Year Progress Report of Mennonite Studies

The self-study for Mennonite Studies was submitted 4 June, 2009, and the internal review team’s report was received 7 December, 2009. The report on Mennonite Studies was approved by Senate Undergraduate Studies on 9 March, 2010, and was presented to Senate 19 April, 2010.

This report outlines the actions taken in response to the 2010 University of Waterloo undergraduate program review of Mennonite Studies:

1. As an initial step to follow-up on the review team’s recommendations, Dr. Hildi Froese Tiessen did an extensive audit of Mennonite Studies activities at Conrad Grebel University College (CGUC). In spring 2011 she presented recommendations that built upon the program review.

2. Structural-organizational changes:
   a) A new committee was established in fall 2011. The Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies (IAMS) Advisory Group brings together the research and teaching emphases in Mennonite Studies at CGUC. The mandate of the IAMS Advisory Group is to promote research and community education on Mennonites and to oversee the Mennonite Studies academic plans within the Faculty of Arts.
   b) CGUC policy documents related to Mennonite Studies were revised and approved to reflect the new committee structure, to define guidelines for the directorship of the program, to identify the activities of the IAMS Advisory Group, and to create guidelines for funding the program.

3. Curricular changes:
   a) In keeping with overall changes within the Faculty of Arts, the Mennonite Studies Option was eliminated and the Minor was reduced to eight courses and modified accordingly (September 2011)
   b) The IAMS Advisory Group updated and revised the list of courses for the Minor and recommended the inactivation of the Mennonite Studies Diploma. These changes were approved by the Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Affairs Group (UGAG) in April 2012
   c) A new introductory course, ARTS 125 Who are the Mennonites?, was approved by UGAG in April 2012. The course will be offered for the first time in the 2012-13 academic year.
   d) The review team recommended a capstone course in Mennonite Studies. We do not consider this to be viable at the present time. We are considering a new upper-year course on “Global Mennonites”, but will monitor program interest before introducing such a course.
e) We will strengthen our current community education activities and develop a community education certificate, with no academic credit, that will respond to the interest in and need for education about Mennonites in various non-University constituencies.

4. Marketing strategy:
The program review recommended a stronger marketing strategy. In winter 2012 the College presented 13 public lectures and literary readings that were very well attended. Such initiatives and the new ARTS 125 Who are the Mennonites? will strengthen community participation and increase visibility on campus.