

Two Year Progress Report: Master of Catholic Thought (MTC) August 2013

Two-Year Progress Report Master of Catholic Thought Program St. Jerome's University and the University of Waterloo

The very positive review of the Master of Catholic Thought program was conducted in February of 2011 and the following is the requisite two-year progress report.

The Program Review was accepted enthusiastically by St. Jerome's University. However, a number of event have conspired to delay significant implementation of the Review's recommendations.

The years 2011 and 2012 were transitional years for senior administration at St. Jerome's University, and the new Dean and new President are both external appointments. As a result, they have needed time to familiarize themselves with all St. Jerome's operations.

Also, in 2011-2012, Drs. Tataryn and Vanin were on leave and sabbatical respectively. Although supervision of students was not interrupted and most activities continued, their ability to interact with the senior administration was limited.

Two-year Implementation Plan to be achieved by September, 2013

1. Dr. Scott Kline (or another tenure stream faculty member) will teach electives and be available for supervision in the program, as his primary graduate responsibility at the Masters level;
2. Based on other programs in theological studies, there is no appetite for reducing the course requirements. However, the University requirements will be borne in mind, that 15 terms (5 years) is the limit for degree completion for a part-time Masters. Students proceeding in terms 16-18 require permission for an extension from the Program Director, and those in terms 19-21 require permission of the Associate Dean, Graduate from the Faculty (in this case Arts);
3. A recruitment support person from the Registrar's Office at St. Jerome's will be identified in 2011/12;
4. A Chair in Catholic Theology will be established by September 2013, if all goes well;

5. Greater collaboration with Conrad Grebel is underway, and will be extended to other faculty members, e.g. at St. Paul University College in 2011/12, and at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary by September 2013;
6. A review of electives will be undertaken in 2012/13;
7. In 2011/12 St. Jerome's University will request that a representative of MCT be allowed to attend the Graduate Arts Group in the Faculty of Arts (either as a member or observer).

Longer term steps include:

1. By 2013-14, an additional tenure stream faculty member will be available to teach and supervise as his/her primary graduate responsibility, bringing core faculty numbers to four;
2. With additional faculty support, and the Chair in Catholic Theology, enrolment targets will increase in 2013-14;
3. Efforts will be made to ensure student financial support;
4. Learning outcomes will be enhanced and clarified;
5. The development of a methods course will be considered;
6. A full-time program offering will be considered;
7. Efforts will be made to track employment of students after graduation;
8. Additional opportunities for students will be developed, e.g. integrative seminars, colloquia
9. The value of establishing a formal relationship with the Toronto School of Theology will be considered.

The points below outline our progress in accomplishing the objectives listed above.

1. The President of St. Jerome's has made a firm commitment to work with the MCT Director this fall of 2013 in order to develop a financial and faculty resource allotment plan which will result in devoted faculty for the program and the development of a Chair of Theology or its equivalent.
2. The development of a financial and faculty resource allotment plan will allow, in the winter of 2014, the development and implementation of a recruitment plan for the Program.
3. The Program Director has spearheaded a partnership agreement which has been signed with five Catholic School Boards and the Diocese of Hamilton. This agreement will facilitate cooperation and recruitment for the Program.
4. The St. Jerome's University Registrar's office now has a dedicated staff member for administrative support to the students and Program Director. This position has facilitated better communication to the students regarding applications, program and course requirements, and additional activities. It has also improved communication and collaboration with the University of Waterloo.

5. Dr. Scott Kline is now Associate Dean and will not be available to teach in the program for the foreseeable future. However, with the conclusion of Dr. David Perrin's term as President, he will be available to teach in the Program commencing in 2014-15. Dr. Perrin is former Dean of Theology at Saint Paul University (Ottawa) and so will be a major asset to the Program.

6. We will be continuing our conversations with Conrad Grebel University College about potential collaboration between our theology programs. We plan to extend such conversations to other faculty at the University of Waterloo who are interested and able to contribute to the Program. We will also explore the possibility of collaborating with Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

Submitted by:
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