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Graduate Program Review

President's Decisions and Recommendations

Deletion

Program: Doctor of Philosophy in Comparative Religion
 Department: Expand program
 Dean Kent: Combine with related program
 Graduate Program Review Team: Redesign; allow program to remain on self-imposed suspension for two years

Recommendation: Provost Delene: Closure
 Appeals Committee: Voted unanimously to reject the appeal of the PhD in Comparative Religion
 President Bailey: Delete

Enrollment: 03-04 5 students
 04-05 5 students
 05-06 3 students

Rationale:

The Appeals Committee's statement of rationale focuses on the need for a completely new program. I concur with the Committee's comments when it states: "There are clear faculty strengths within the department and a strong desire of the faculty to offer the opportunity for advanced study in religion. There is a profound respect and admiration for the faculty in Comparative Religion. Faced with a small cohort of students and loss of faculty lines, this faculty voluntarily recognized that it would have difficulty serving the needs of advanced study without additional institutional commitment and it entered into a suspension with the hope that such resources might be forthcoming. There are currently no students scheduled for admission into the program, and the proposed changes to the program, while compelling in many ways, are too extensive to warrant implementation without a full curricular review as a completely new program. During the period of suspension, the university has not devoted faculty resources to the program that would be essential to maintain it."

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the proposal to delete the PhD in Comparative Religion degree. Deletion of the program becomes effective at the conclusion of the 2012-13 academic year or the last graduation date of any currently enrolled students, whichever comes first.



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Last Revised: July 28, 2005