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To: Phyllis Wise, Provost

Douglas J. Wadden, Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Planning

From: Gerald J. Baldasty, Vice Provost and Dean

James S. Antony, Associate Vice Provost and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

RE: Review of the Values in Society Graduate Certificate

This memo outlines the recommendations from the review of the Values in Society Graduate Certificate offered by the Program on Values in Society (POV) which is housed in the Department of Philosophy. This review included assessment of the undergraduate minor. Detailed comments on the review can be found in the documents that were part of the following formal proceedings:

- POV self-study (December, 2009)
- Charge meeting between review committee, program, and administrators (May 15, 2009)
- Site visit (December 4, 2009)
- Review committee report (March 7, 2010)
- POV response to the report (April 14, 2010)
- Graduate School Council consideration of review (May 20, 2010)

The review committee consisted of:

Susan P. Kemp, Associate Professor, UW Social Work (Committee Chair)

Katherine Beckett, Associate Professor, UW Sociology and Law, Societies & Justice

Rob Reich, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Stanford University

A subcommittee of the Graduate School Council presented findings and recommendations to the full Council at its meeting on April 20, 2010. After discussion, Council recommended the graduate certificate program be continued, with the next review in five years (2014-2015 academic year). Specific comments and recommendations regarding the program include the following:

Program Strengths

- POV includes a top-tier group of faculty that addresses relevant and timely questions in applied ethics.
- The review committee judged POV to be comparable in quality and stature to peer programs on which it was modeled (Princeton, Harvard, Stanford), despite far fewer resources.
- POV provides a base for an energized group of faculty with a strong sense of cohesion.
- Program faculty are outward-looking and interdisciplinarily engaged, successful in the goal of counteracting the perceived insularity of the Department of Philosophy (as noted in last departmental review).
- Program faculty are active in teaching interdisciplinary courses. Despite low numbers in the graduate certificate and undergraduate minor, they contribute mightily to the teaching of ethics-related courses across campus.
- POV organizes public events, including collaborations with non-university organizations (e.g. on global justice, medical ethics, environmental ethics, and IT), and has thus established a presence and level of outreach unusual for a faculty group in a philosophy department.
- The review committee reported student feedback on the graduate certificate program is uniformly very positive. Students are happy with faculty and with course content, but there are some concerns about program identity and visibility.

Challenges & Risks Identified by Review Committee

- While the individual courses offered by POV are well enrolled, the graduate certificate program and the undergraduate minor are underutilized. Many more students take certificate courses than complete the program.
- The review committee report questioned whether graduate certificate requirements might be overly burdensome for students in two-year or three-year professional programs.
- The report raised questions about the cost-benefit relationship of offering the certificate.
- The program has not articulated well the “added value” of the certificate. There was concern that the graduate certificate and the undergraduate minor were not well advertised.
- The governance of the program, its relationship with Philosophy, and its identity need clarification.
- There is a need for further strategic thinking about the program’s direction, succession to the directorship, the scope and mix of the affiliated faculty, and the calibration of program goals and activities with those of the Department of Philosophy.
- The program does not have a well developed advisory board.
- Given the quality of the faculty, retention represents a long term challenge. POV has already lost one faculty member, undermining its emphasis on environmental ethics, one of its signature areas.
- The demands on all faculty are also a concern. There was special concern about the two junior faculty and the role of the POV in their tenure processes.

Areas of Concurrence and/or Disagreement

- The program agreed that the undergraduate minor and the certificate were undersubscribed. However, the program believes this can be largely remedied through better publicity and it has taken a number of measures in this direction.
- The program's self-study addresses the possibility of restructuring the certificate and the minor to reduce some of the applied work requirements.
- The program recognizes the need to clarify its links to the Department of Philosophy and may seek to formalize this relationship and make its own autonomy more salient.
- The program also recognizes the need to clarify "affiliate membership" in POV. The program may better define the role of affiliate faculty and then extend invitations to a wider variety of University stakeholders.
- The program also agrees to revisit the idea of an advisory committee composed of stakeholders from across the University.

Graduate School Council Comments and Recommendations

The Graduate School Council recognizes that POV brings a distinguished faculty to the University and has led to research and teaching that would otherwise not have occurred. The Council encourages the program to address issues raised in the review committee report and to give special attention to the following recommendations.

- Given the low enrollments in both the graduate certificate and the undergraduate minor, the program should continue its efforts in publicity, marketing, and outreach, with the goal of raising awareness across campus and attracting students to both programs.
- The program and the Department of Philosophy should more clearly define and articulate their relationship.
- The program should clarify what "affiliate membership" in POV means, including roles and responsibilities for faculty involved.

The Council recommends continuing status for the graduate certificate program with subsequent review in five years (2014-2015 academic year). The 2014-2015 review should place special emphasis on the visibility of the program and what POV has done to market both the graduate certificate and undergraduate minor. Contingent upon the review committee recommendations in 2014-2015, the program may then be included in the Department of Philosophy's next ten-year review.

We concur with the Council's comments and recommendations.

cc: Ana Mari Cauce, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Judith A. Howard, Divisional Dean for the Social Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences
Michael I. Blake, Director, Values in Society Program
Kenneth C Clatterbaugh, Chair, Department of Philosophy
Members of the Review Committee
Members of the Graduate School Council
David Canfield-Budde, Academic Program Specialist, The Graduate School
Jake Faleschini, President, GPSS