

August 10, 2023

Dear Dean Dunaway and Dr. Sharon Ryan,

As part of the ongoing Academic Transformation initiative, the Provost's Office has completed its [Board of Governors Rule 2.2](#) Program Review process for the identified program(s) in the Department of Philosophy and the Humanities.

### ***Possible Recommendations***

Under WVU Board of Governors Rule 2.2., there are four possible recommendations for programs, and they are defined as follows:

1. Continue at the current level of activity (i.e., no recommended changes for the program)
2. Continue at the current level of activity with specific action (i.e., the program will continue to exist, but there are recommended changes for the program, including reduction of faculty positions)
3. Development of a cooperative program (i.e., potentially merging one or more programs together to create a new program / curriculum)
4. Discontinue the program (i.e., program will no longer exist after a teach out is completed)

### ***Preliminary Recommendations***

After considering the data previously released, the information contained within your unit's Self-Study Review Form, and consulting with the unit's dean's office, the Provost's Office Preliminary Recommendation is as follows:

- BA Philosophy: Continue at the Current Level of Activity

The key components that led to the Provost's Office Preliminary Recommendations include the following:

- The department was placed under review due to declining enrollment, a decrease in student credit hours and revenue, an increase in full-time faculty, the ratio of faculty-to-program majors being below the median, and a worsening net revenue trend.
- The plan presented by the unit in its self-study proposed a reduced use of GTAs and supplemental faculty, an increase in revenue through recruitment, an increase to section sizes; although, no plan to significantly reduce cost was presented. The self-study directly engaged with the unit's data and provided meaningful context but over-relied on the importance of double majors in their enrollment analyses. The self-study provided a strong argument that the unit produces significant revenue in an efficient manner. Unit worked with Provost's Office to correct faculty data.

Note: The Religious Studies minor was not included as part of this review.

### ***Notifying Your Faculty and Staff***

The chair or school/division director must notify the faculty and appropriate staff within this unit of the Provost Office's Preliminary Recommendations by forwarding this email and CCing Associate Provost for Curriculum and Assessment Lou Slimak ([Louis.slimak@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Louis.slimak@mail.wvu.edu)) and the college dean. This notification should occur **within 24 hours of receiving this letter.**

### ***Program Review Appeal Process***

If a chair, school/division director, or faculty member opts to appeal any part of the Provost's Office Preliminary Recommendation, they must submit a [Notice of Intent to Appeal](#) by **August 18, 2023.**

Any chair, school/division director, or faculty member who files a Notice of Intent to Appeal will receive notification at least three business days in advance of when the Program Review Appeal Committee hearing for their program will be scheduled. Most hearings will occur between **August 21 – September 5, 2023.**

To ensure a broad-based representation, the Provost's Office will establish a Program Review Appeal Committee specific for each unit. Members will include the vice provost, an associate provost (undergraduate or graduate), the program review officer, a representative from the dean's office of the unit's home college, two representatives from dean's offices outside of the unit's home college, and the Faculty Senate chair or designee.

The chair, school/division director, or faculty member who filed the Notice of Intent to Appeal must submit the [Program Review Appeal Form](#), which contains any additional information or data they wish the Program Review Appeal Committee to consider, at least two business days in advance of the hearing. For units appealing the number of faculty to be reduced, it is strongly recommended that the unit present a staffing plan that demonstrates what number of faculty are needed to deliver the unit's curricular requirements, including the number and size of its section offerings.

During the appeal hearing, the unit's representative is given 30 minutes to present the substance of their appeal and 15 minutes to address questions from the Program Review Appeal Committee.

The Program Review Appeal Committee will then deliberate and vote to accept or change the Provost's Office Preliminary Recommendation. The program review officer tallies the votes, informs the Program Review Appeal Committee of the results, and communicates the results to the dean's office and chair or school/division director within three business days following the hearing.

If the appeal is denied, the original recommendation will be presented to the Board of Governors for a vote on September 15. If the appeal is granted, the Program Review Appeal Committee may provide a new recommendation to the dean and chair or school/division director. This new recommendation would also go to the Board of Governors for a vote. All decisions made by the Program Review Appeal Committee are final.

***Additional Resources***

Additional information on the process and timeline is available at:  
<https://transformation.wvu.edu/resources>.

Sincerely,

WVU Office of the Provost