Present: M. Bay, C. Dellinger-Pate, J. Gleason, K. Gorniak, R. Silady, L. Vitale, J. Webb, A. Zhitomi

Absent: C. Calin, M. Fede, T. Lin, R. Zipoli

Meeting called to order 9:43am

1. Announcement: ART will possibly seek external accreditation and requested that their next review occur simultaneously with the external accreditation process. It may affect their review by a few months.

2. There was a discussion of minor changes to the PRAC guidelines:
   - possible inclusion of informational sheet from OA&P and OIR
   - statement to address a department/program’s response to or a reflection on the external reviewer’s report

   Discussion on these two possible inclusions will continue via email

3. The committee spent the remaining time reviewing the self-study from Philosophy and meeting with the department representative, Dr. Richard Volkman.

   PRAC did not request any revisions to the self-study. The document clearly reflects the collective Philosophy faculty’s passion for the discipline and for the report’s content. Admirably, the entire faculty was involved in the creation of the report.

   Many strengths stand out from the self-study, including:
   - the department’s mission and faculty demographics were specific and clear
   - faculty are heavily engaged in research
   - students are presenting their research at international conferences
   - goals for student learning clearly expressed, and 5 measurable outcomes made explicit
   - two important initiatives are housed in the department: RCCS/RC-VEST and the journal *Metaphilosophy*
   - students receive individualized attention, and are nurtured in their pursuit of Philosophy

   The courses PHI offers in the LEP program are described; there is little information on the Philosophy minor or the Religious Studies minor.

   Indirect evidence of student achievement abounds. In addition to the active Honor’s Society *Phi Sigma Tau* and the students’ Philosophy Club, several students have pursued graduate study at prestigious institutions. Alumni are thriving in careers, and one firm in New Haven has hired four SCSU Philosophy major graduates, and has asked for more.
Previously, direct evidence for assessment had consisted of a “History Inventory,” an exam that majors in their senior year would take. The department found this exam was not adequately measuring their goals for students, and is in the midst of adopting a course-embedded model of assessment, using the student-generated philosophical essay as the measure of student learning. The department has a clear implementation plan for assessment, though some members of PRAC expressed concern over the lack of traditional assessment tools, such as rubrics.

Discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50am

Minutes submitted by L. Vitale