

# Indiana State University

2004 - 2005 Academic Annual Report

Department of Philosophy

Year in Review

## Accomplishments

**As you have heard, increasing public awareness of Indiana State University's accomplishments is crucial to building student enrollment, influencing policy makers, and developing a place of pre-eminence in the Midwest. What do you consider to be your department's 5-10 top accomplishments for the 2004-2005 year that will help contribute to this effort?**

1. The department has continued to publish well, with two books and a number of published/forthcoming articles. 2. We have increased the number of majors over the past year, and we expect 3 to have graduated during the 2004-05 year. 3. A member of the faculty was invited to give 4 course lectures to the Dewey Institute for Lifelong Learning. 4. A faculty member was closely involved in the "Ethics and Health Care" Conference at the Landsbaum Center in April 2005. 5. We had a very successful search for a junior faculty member in the area of Eastern Philosophy, and we are also in the process of following up on a much needed Program Review (first one in 8 years). 6. The department sponsored two Philosophy Lectures with invited speakers, one of which was co-sponsored by African and African American Studies. 7. One alumnus has published a paper in the journal Film and Philosophy. 8. The Great Ideas Discussion Group has been very active with numerous meetings and a very well attended public debate on the "existence of God." 9. Our courses, as a whole, continue to get good enrollments, often filling up in our 100 level Intros to Logic and Philosophy.

## Research and Scholarship

**What is your assessment of accomplishments in the area of research and scholarship? Are you satisfied overall? In which areas do you feel your department does particularly well? In which areas do you feel your department needs to improve?**

Overall, our accomplishments in scholarship/research are more than satisfactory, especially given our teaching and service responsibilities.

## Grants, Contracts & Off Campus Professional Service

**What is your assessment of accomplishments in the area of grants, contracts, and off campus professional service? Are you satisfied overall? In which areas do you feel your department does particularly well? In which areas do you feel your department needs to improve?**

Securing grants and contracts are not as common in philosophy, but this is perhaps an area within which we can improve. One member of the department did receive a grant through the Center for Teaching and Learning. With respect to off campus professional service, one faculty member has been contacted several times to review journal and book manuscript submissions and to determine whether or not they should be published. One faculty member also serves on a committee for an international association on Consciousness. More visibility is certainly always desired.

## Best Practices

**Describe the progress your unit has made thus far. Were you able to take these steps? What**

**steps or goals have been particularly difficult to achieve and why? What practices, actions, initiatives are you doing that could be considered eminent?**

We are in the process of following up on our first external Program Review in 8 years. We expect this process to help us identify specific goals and steps so that we are better able to report progress in future years. We have, however, continued to raise the level of awareness of the Philosophy Department. Through a lecture series, a new internship initiative, the Great Ideas Discussion Group, and course development in various interdisciplinary areas, we are making real change to put forward a vibrant philosophy department.

#### Student Credit Hours

**What did you learn? What steps will you take during 2004-05 to meet your department's student credit hour target by fall 2005?**

Our strategies to meet SCH targets have worked rather well overall, and so we plan to continue to pursue them. In addition to offering upper level courses with strong interdisciplinary ties (e.g. Philosophy of Psychology, Philosophy of Law, etc.), our lower-level courses frequently fill up, especially our Intros to Logic and Philosophy, both of which have now been changed to 100-level courses. We plan on continuing to offer multiple sections of each.

#### Budget

**Identify and describe any collaborative efforts that have been undertaken by your department with other academic or administrative units to maximize resources to meet departmental goals. Please also consider collaborative opportunities with external partners.**

We worked with the Department of African and African American Studies and combined resources to bring in a speaker of interdisciplinary interest. We also continue to offer multiple sections of Introduction to Logic, which is required by the Legal Studies Program.

#### Outreach

**What are the outreach opportunities for your discipline? (non-traditional modes of delivery and timing, etc)**

We currently do not offer distance or web-based courses for a number of reasons, though one faculty member sometimes uses web-based instruction as a part of some of his courses to complement standard classroom instruction.

#### Assessment

**For each program in the department, provide one or two examples of how the program is using assessment and evaluation (student outcomes, program review, and/or accreditation) to enhance student learning and program strength this year.**

Due to some difficulty gathering appropriate data from majors, we have agreed to modify our assessment plan early in the Fall upon the arrival of our new tenure track faculty member. We have, in the past, actually completed an assessment cycle based on our previous plan, but limited data has yielded limited useful results thus far. We have therefore consulted twice with Sean McKittrick and have met as a department about making several specific changes to our plan. We also expect to make a number of curricular modifications based on the results of the Program Review.

#### **Strategic Initiatives**

#### Development Activities

**What steps have you taken to support development activities in your department? How can your efforts be supported?**

As yet this has not been feasible, aside from encouraging younger faculty to take advantage of opportunities such as those offered through the Center for Teaching and Learning.

Experiential Learning

**Please provide examples of experiential learning in which your department was engaged in 2004-2005.**

Beginning to establish an Ethics Internship.

**Future Goals**

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**The University is highlighting experiential learning, community engagement, and eminent programs as aspects of our campus that will attract students and resources. How is your department planning to contribute to these strategic initiatives in ways that will help ISU be recognized as a Pre-eminent University?**

The department plans on continuing to offer a Philosophy Lecture Series, and to be engaged with the Dewey Institute for Lifelong Learning. We also plan to remain involved in any future Medical Ethics conferences at the Landsbaum Center. The department would also like to continue having public debates on major philosophical issues with the involvement of the Great Ideas Discussion Group (i.e. Philosophy Club).