

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
REQUEST FOR DECISION

PRESENTED BY: Len Proctor, Chair, Academic Programs Committee of Council

DATE OF MEETING: December 16, 2010

SUBJECT: College of Graduate Studies & Research: MA in Religion and Culture

DECISION REQUESTED:

It is recommended:

That Council approve the proposal from the College of Graduate Studies and Research for a Master of Arts in the field of specialization of Religion and Culture.

PURPOSE:

The proposed program is an academic program at the University of Saskatchewan. Implementation of programs requires approval by University Council.

SUMMARY:

The purpose of the M.A. program is to provide students with an advanced level of training in the academic study of religion. This training will prepare them for further research, teaching, and writing in the field of Religion and Culture/Religious Studies. Program requirements will include a minimum of 15 cu of courses, followed by an M.A. thesis based on original research.

New courses:

RLST 990 Seminar

Area A: Western Religious Traditions

801.3 Seminar in Jewish and Christian Origins

802.3 Seminar in Western Religious History

803.3 Seminar in Western Religious Literature

804.3 Seminar in Western Religious Thought

805.3 Issues in Contemporary Western Religions

Area B: Eastern Religious Traditions

821.3 Seminar in Eastern Religious History

822.3 Seminar in Eastern Religious Literature

823.3 Seminar in Eastern Religious Thought

824.3 Seminar in Eastern Religions and Society

825.3 Issues in Contemporary Eastern Religions

The Academic Programs Committee discussed this proposal with representatives from the College of Graduate Studies & Research and from the department. A Subcommittee was established to review the program proposal and additional documentation from supporting departments and from the Library was requested. At its November 27 meeting, the Committee agreed to recommend approval of this program

ATTACHMENTS:

Proposal documents and related memos; Subcommittee report.



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Graduate Studies and Research

MEMORANDUM

To: Cathie Fornssler, Secretary
Academic Programs Committee of University Council

From: Trevor Crowe, Associate Dean
College of Graduate Studies and Research

Copies: Braj Sinha, Head
Mary Ann Beavis, Graduate Chair
Department of Religion and Culture

Date: September 08, 2010

Re: Graduate Program: Master of Arts in Religion and Culture

Consistent with the agreement between the College of Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) and the Academic Programs Committee (APC) of Council, attached is a report that describes the comprehensive and thorough review of the proposed graduate program in the Department of Religion and Culture in the College of Arts and Science. Following the extensive and thorough review, the CGSR is satisfied that the program meets the expectations for a Master of Arts degree. Within the last few years, there has been considerable change within the (now) Department of Religion and Culture, and the development of this new program presents the opportunity for students to progress from an undergraduate program into graduate studies. The College of Graduate Studies and Research support the development of this new graduate program.

If questions arise during the review by APC, representatives from the Department of Religion and Culture and I would be happy to respond.

The Notice of Intent for this proposal was submitted to the Planning and Priorities Committee September 10, 2009, and the program proposal was first submitted to the Programs Committee of the CGSR March 09, 2010. The proposal was first discussed April 13, 2010, and program proponents, Professors Sinha and Beavis, were invited to meet with the committee on this day. The Committee provided comments and suggestions for revisions. In response to the comments and suggestions, proponents submitted a revised proposal April 30, 2010. The Programs Committee considered the revised proposal at its next meeting (May 11, 2010) and was unanimously in support of the revised program proposed. The Executive Committee of the CGSR considered and approved the revised proposal May 14, 2010.

Issues noted by the Programs Committee during the review of the proposal

- (a) Faculty members to be involved with the proposed program include colleagues from St. Thomas More College (STM), and the program will be operated by the Department of Religion and Culture. Further, the plan is to have faculty from the Saskatoon Theological Union (STU) appointed within the College of Graduate Studies and Research so that they may also contribute to the program. The committee thought that this could have an impact on available external examiners. The committee questioned if there was enough faculty in place to run the program in the case of attrition and/or sabbatical leaves. The proposal mentions ten “core” faculty, but actually only six (largely only four) carry most of the teaching load. The department is planning on two new hires; one in 2010 and one in 2011.
- (b) The proposal mentions ten courses, but does not clarify how these courses will be offered in terms of sequencing (the rotation of the courses is not clearly indicated). The committee wondered if a minimum number of registrants are required in order for any of the courses to run, and further whether there is a contingency plan if a course required by a student is not offered. It was also noted that there was no proposed RLST 990 and no mention of GSR 960.
- (c) The second language requirement was mentioned, but no tangible means of meeting the language requirement is laid out, nor is it entirely clear how and when the language requirement will be determined for each student.
- (d) Concern exists regarding the “evaluation” section of each of the new course proposals as 30% for a presentation seems excessive and especially so given that the final research paper—also weighted at 30% of the final grade—treats the same topic.
- (e) The committee noted the lack of course proposals concerning aboriginal spirituality and topics pertaining to Islamic religions and thought that this lacuna amounted to a limited breadth of proposed courses.
- (f) The Department of Religion and Culture is proposing a September roll out for the new program, but committee believes it cannot rush the proposal through without due diligence.

Dr. Braj Sinha and Dr. Mary Ann Beavis responded to the committee’s questions. The MA in Religion & Culture has been conceived of as an interdisciplinary program, where students will be encouraged to take courses from other disciplines. As with the management of other thesis-based graduate programs, decisions about the Program of Studies will be the mandate of the student’s advisory committee. Following advice from the Programs Committee, the program will require a minimum of 9 credit units from the Department of Religion and Culture and permit the remaining courses to be drawn from approved electives.

The department is committed to the proposed graduate program and at least during the near term, courses will be offered with low enrollment. The principals are confident that after the first 3 to 5 years, annual enrollment will grow, as it is the only graduate program of its nature offered nationally between Ontario (the University of Toronto) & the west coast (the University of British Columbia).

There are two dimensions to the necessary resources for the proposed program – faculty to teach courses in the program and faculty to supervise grad students. The faculty complement includes six members from STM (which includes a 2011 hire), five from the College of Arts and Science and four adjunct

faculty members drawn from the Saskatoon Theological Union (STU). STU is committed to the program. The external examiners for student theses can be from STU, as well as other departments such as anthropology and philosophy.

A research course is not a requirement of the program as it currently stands, because methodologies of research may vary. However, a research component is included in most courses. The Department of Religion and Culture has a strong relationship with the ICCC and the ICCC may be proposing a global research course. Most of the proposed courses have a seminar component.

The second language component of Latin, Hebrew, or Sanskrit is a required component of the undergraduate honours program. STU offers a variety of biblical language courses in its summer session that students can take to make up deficiencies. As the program grows, new courses will be developed to meet the program's needs.

Islam is an institutional priority and the Department of Religion and Culture is in the process of hiring an instructor (term appointment) to deliver courses on Islam. Native religion is also of interest in a programmatic sense, but the Department of Native Studies does not have resources for mounting such a course at this time. Thus the Department of Religion and Culture may look to native elders to help with some of the program delivery.

The University of Regina already has an established program, but the University of Saskatchewan will offer a new orientation and a more interdisciplinary program than exists in Regina. The theological colleges offer professional degrees, while the graduate program offers critical engagement. The Department of Religion and Culture has several inquiries each year from students who are interested in pursuing a graduate program, but the department has not admitted additional students in recent years with the opinion that it was irresponsible to offer admission if they could not offer a program.

Although the course proposals indicate that the presentation and research paper could essentially mean that one assignment might account for 60% of the course grade, inevitably the evaluation model would be dependent on the instructor teaching the course. The courses will be alternated over 2 years so that each student should have ample opportunity to take the courses they want and or need.

Issues noted by the Executive Committee during review of the proposal

The program proposal was presented to the Executive Committee of the college by the Chair of the Programs Committee. One member commented that new programs are challenged to provide a community of scholars. In the opinion of this committee member, it's necessary to have a minimum number of students and amount of funding in order for more students to be attracted to the program. It was explained that the issue of necessary resources for the program to be successful was considered, and the Programs Committee was satisfied with the Department's assurances. The program has broad support from STM and the Saskatoon Theological Union in addition to the College of Arts and Science. The Department anticipates an annual intake of 8 to 10 students,

Executive Summary

Department of Religion and Culture

University of Saskatchewan

**PROPOSAL FOR A MASTER'S OF ARTS DEGREE PROGRAM
IN RELIGION & CULTURE**

The Department of Religion and Culture currently offers three-year, four-year, honours and double-honours B.A. degree programs together with an undergraduate minor program in Religion and Culture. A special case M.A. program was also instituted in 1990. To date, the Department has graduate ten special case M.A.s, and has one currently enrolled.

The purpose of the M.A. program is to provide students with an advanced level of training in the academic study of religion. This training will prepare them for further research, teaching, and writing in the field of Religion and Culture/Religious Studies. We want to provide students with the necessary groundwork and general coverage in Religion and Culture at the first level of graduate work to equip them to go on to doctoral studies. We also want to give students and faculty an opportunity to develop and augment their areas of specialization in the study of religion, which will contribute to their individual academic growth and the University's research intensiveness agenda.

The program outlined here is being proposed in the light of encouragement from the College of Graduate Studies and Research, and the College of Arts and Science, for our department to move beyond the special case M.A. to a regular M.A. program in Religion and Culture. The Department believes that the program being proposed is highly feasible and will be suitable for our students, helpful for our faculty, and beneficial to the College and the University as a whole. The proposed program put forward here fits well with the University's long-term plans to enhance graduate programs across the campus. Implementing this program is the top priority for the Department in terms of any new developments. If the College does not proceed with an M.A. program in Religion and Culture, the University runs the risk of falling behind in the intellectual development that is occurring in this field on other campuses in Canada.

Working with a number of special case M.A. students has given faculty the opportunity to learn what has attracted them to our Department for graduate training. In our estimation it is likely that we will receive about ten applications for graduate admission annually of which we would want to accept between five and eight. We would limit the number of students in the program at any one time to between ten and fifteen students.

Our proposed program does not compete with any program currently offered on the University campus. We do anticipate, however, that our program will complement graduate level program offerings in other units, and that students in cognate fields such as Anthropology, English, History, Sociology, Music, Art History, Drama and the graduate colleges of the Saskatoon Theological Union may wish to avail themselves of course offerings in Religion and Culture in the same way that our prospective students may wish to enhance their programs by taking elective courses in those cognate units.

We have adopted an approach to course offerings that focuses on selected areas of general concern

within the discipline with a view to exploring materials from both the Western and Eastern religious traditions pertaining to these areas, using appropriate theory and methodology for their analysis. These course offerings include seminars, which focus on the methodological issues in the study of religion generally, the role of texts in religion, the relationship of religion to other institutions, the place of religion in culture, and the effects of diaspora on religious communities, ideas and practices. The range of course offerings and the approach taken in them give students a broad exposure to critical areas of concern in the discipline, while maximizing faculty resources and their disciplinary strengths. In this regard a unique feature of our program, and an area of focus, is the interest that our faculty members have in religion as manifested in a variety of social and cultural contexts, both in historical and contemporary perspective.

The University of Saskatchewan M.A. in Religion and Culture program is open to all students with a B.A. (Hons) or its equivalent in a broad program involving significant critical exposure to religious traditions of the East and the West along with some familiarity with the methodological and thematic issues involved in academic study of religion. Students with a degree in a cognate subject with a limited background in the discipline may be admitted as probationary students with the requirement to do some supplemental work.

Students will normally take two years to complete the program. Program requirements will include a minimum of 15 cu of course, followed by an M.A. thesis based on original research. During the first year of the program students are expected to complete at least 9 cu of course work; the additional 3 cu may be taken during the first or second year, as appropriate. In selecting their courses, students must take at least 9 cu of Religion and Culture courses, which will include 3 cu of graduate level Religion and Culture coursework each of areas A, B & C, as noted below.

The other required 3 cu may be taken at the graduate level in any of the three designated areas in Religion and Culture, or alternatively may be satisfied, either by a 400 honours level Religion and Culture class, or, a graduate class in a cognate department/unit. Students will consult with their thesis supervisor and the Graduate Chair when determining the most suitable course for their programs.

Summary of Program Structure: (1) Minimum of one year of residency requirement; (2) 15 cu minimum course requirement, which may include a 3 cu 400 level Religion and Culture seminar or a 3 cu graduate class in a cognate discipline; (3) The program is thesis-based only; (4) The student's program will be defined at the time of admission; (5) There are no qualifying or comprehensive examinations; (6) Each M.A. student will have an Advisory Committee consisting of the student's (prospective) thesis advisor and two graduate faculty members. Their role is to guide and monitor student progress throughout the program; (7) Second language competency requirement as determined by the Graduate Committee.

Proposal for Curriculum Change University of Saskatchewan

to be approved by University Council or by Academic Programs Committee

1. PROPOSAL IDENTIFICATION

Title of proposal: MA in Religion and Culture

Degree(s): Master of Arts Field(s) of Specialization: Religion and Culture

Level(s) of Concentration: Option(s):

Degree College: CGSR Department: Religion and Culture Home College: Arts and Science

Contact person(s) (name, telephone, fax, e-mail):

Braj M. Sinha, Head, Dept. of Religion and Culture

Tel: 966-4258 Fax: 966-6804 Email: braj.sinha@usask.ca

Mary Ann Beavis, Graduate Chair, Dept. of Religion and Culture

Tel: 966-8044 Fax: 966-8904

Date: March 3, 2010 (Notice of Intent submitted to Planning and Priorities Committee on Sept. 10, 2009)

Proposed date of implementation: September 2010

2. Type of change

Requiring approval by Council

- ☒ A new Degree-Level program or template for program.
- ☐ A new Field of Specialization at the Major or Honours Level of Concentration or template for a major or honours program
- ☐ Conversion of an existing program from regular to special tuition program.
- ☐ A change in the requirements for admission to a program
- ☐ A change in quota for a college
- ☐ Program revisions that will use new resources
- ☐ A replacement program, including program deletion
- ☐ A program deletion (consult Program Termination Procedures, approved by Council in May 2001)

Requiring approval by Academic Programs Committee

- ☐ Addition of a higher Level of Concentration to an existing Field of Specialization.
- ☐ Addition of a new Field of Specialization at the Minor Level of Concentration.
- ☐ A change in program options
- ☐ A change in the name of a Degree-level Program or Field of Specialization.
- ☐ A change in the total number of credit units required for an approved degree program.

Proposal Document

Attach a proposal document, usually two or more pages, which covers the following information. The length and detail provided should reflect the scale or importance of the program or revision. Documents prepared for your college may be used.

3. RATIONALE

This statement should include information about program objectives, need for the program, demand, uniqueness, student outcomes including employment or academic opportunities, and the expertise of the sponsoring unit. Please specify how this proposal relates to department/college plans and to Systematic Program Review or other review recommendations.

Objectives of the Program

The purpose of the M.A. program is to provide students with an advanced level of training in the academic study of religion. This training will prepare them for further research, teaching, and writing in the field of Religion and Culture/Religious Studies. This objective will be accomplished by giving an opportunity for in-depth study of historical, textual and cultural developments of the major religious traditions of the world including both Eastern and Western religions, and in the field of religion and culture. It is our intention to offer an M.A. degree at a level commensurate with other programs in Canada and to prepare our graduates to go on to Ph.D. work in Religion and Culture/Religious Studies or cognate fields.

Our objective in developing a regular M.A. is twofold. We want to provide students with the necessary groundwork and general coverage in Religion and Culture at the first level of graduate work to equip them to go on to doctoral studies. At the same time, we want to give students and faculty an opportunity to develop and augment their areas of specialization in the study of religion which will contribute to their individual academic growth and the University's research intensiveness agenda.

Need for the Program

The public perception of the importance of religion in social, political, economic, and cultural history is steadily increasing. Therefore there is a perceived need, in our own community and elsewhere, for the kind of analysis of religious factors that graduates of this program will be able to provide. As noted in the 1996 review of the Department of Religious Studies and Anthropology:

The academic study of religion has an important role to play in the contemporary university, not least because of its strong internationalist, comparative, and interdisciplinary emphasis, in addition to its critical reflection on the many and different religious sources of the Canadian cultural heritage.

The most recent Systematic Program Review of the Department has further reiterated this point of view:

The program thus offers special resources to the people of Saskatchewan. The program thus gives Saskatchewan students a special opportunity to enter into other worldviews and cross-cultural understandings that will stand them in good stead in today's globalized world.

As these reviews indicate, there is a general need for an M.A. program in Religion and Culture to complement the University's offerings in other areas of humanistic/social scientific disciplines.

The program outlined here is being proposed in the light of encouragement from the College of Graduate Studies and Research, and the College of Arts and Science, for our department to move beyond the special case M.A. to a regular M.A. program in Religion and Culture. The Department believes that the program being proposed is highly feasible and will be suitable for our students, helpful for our faculty, and beneficial to the College and the University as a whole.

All levels of our society can benefit from the insights and skills of those who undertake training in the academic field of Religion and Culture/Religious Studies. There is growing awareness of our emerging multicultural and multi-religious community in Canada, and the need for professionals in many fields to have training and expertise in the analysis of the religious dimensions of culture is becoming more clearly perceived and acutely felt.

The proposed program put forward here fits well with the University's long-term plans to enhance graduate programs across the campus. Implementing this program is the top priority for the Department in terms of any new developments. If the College does not proceed with an M.A. program in Religion and Culture, the University runs the risk of falling behind in the intellectual development that is occurring in this field on other campuses in Canada.

The University, the College, and of course the Department itself will benefit from a regular M.A. program in a number of ways. Department faculty will enhance their professional development through working with graduate students on a regular basis. The program will contribute to the research and teaching strength of the Department through intellectually challenging work with M.A. students, as our past work with special case M. A. students has already demonstrated. The research intensity in the Department will be enhanced, with the possibility of graduate students and faculty members making joint applications for major grant funding. The Department will also benefit from having a more adequate pool of teaching and research assistants for its undergraduate course teaching. A regularized M.A. program in Religion and that includes attention to Asian traditions will also assist the University to achieve its stated goals in the areas of internationalization and globalization.

Demand for the Program

The Department has gained some experience with graduate student recruitment over the past fourteen years, and working with a number of special case M.A. students has given faculty the opportunity to learn what has attracted them to our Department for graduate training. In addition, although our undergraduate students know the Department of Religion and Culture is accepting only one or two special case M.A. students at present, we nevertheless receive a steady

stream of inquiries as to when that regular graduate program will be offered. Several of our B.A. graduates have gone elsewhere to pursue graduate training in the interim. We also regularly receive letters and e-mail queries from other potential students outside the province requesting information on our program. Based on this direct information and on consultation with other departments of Religion/Religious Studies in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, we see the main clientele for our program being B.A. honours graduates from prairie university departments of Religion/Religious Studies and graduates from our own undergraduate program. We also anticipate attracting some students from other parts of Canada, particularly Ontario, and possibly students from the United States and overseas. Over the past two years, we have received several inquiries from international students interested in graduate study in our Department.

In our estimation it is likely that we will receive about ten applications for graduate admission annually of which we would want to accept between five and eight. We would limit the number of students in the program at any one time to between ten and fifteen students.

Recruitment

Religion and Culture will handle student recruitment in a way similar to other departments, which will include posting program details on our website and sending e-mail notification followed by printed flyers and brochures to campuses throughout Canada and in the nearby United States. As we expect the majority of students to come from our own Department and programs at other universities in western Canada, we will also make particular efforts to attract students from these groups through direct personal contact.

Competition

Our proposed program does not compete with any program currently offered on the University campus. We do anticipate, however, that our program will complement graduate level program offerings in other units, and that students in cognate fields such as Anthropology, English, History, Sociology, Music, Art History, Drama and the graduate colleges of the Saskatoon Theological Union may wish to avail themselves of course offerings in Religion and Culture in the same way that our prospective students may wish to enhance their programs by taking elective courses in those cognate units.

Basic features of Canadian Religion/Religious Studies M.A Programs and some unique features of the proposed U of S program

Over the recent period, the Department has conducted a systematic review of existing Masters programs in Religion/Religious Studies across Canada. This has been done in the first instance to ensure that our program conforms to basic standards in the field of study. There are certain elements that are common to the M.A. programs in Canada and the United States which can be summarized as follows:

- a) M.A. programs in the discipline are normally two-year degree programs leading on to Ph.D. studies, involving one year of course work and a year of thesis research and writing.

- b) The usual graduate course load is 15 graduate credit units, which are generally configured as five 3credit unit graduate seminars taken during the first and the second year of the program.
- c) Most programs have the requirement of a thesis or M.A. project report/essay. There are a small number of programs that can be completed with only course work.
- d) A small number of M.A. programs have one “core” course that is offered annually and taken by all students in the first year of their program of studies.
- e) While there is considerable variation in faculty configuration, all M.A. programs in the discipline function with a core faculty group which has a regular commitment to the program. In addition to this core faculty group there are, in most cases, contributors from affiliated areas.
- f) There is generally a first-year, and in rare cases, a second-year, university level proficiency requirement in a modern or classical source language.

We have taken these standards as general guidelines when designing the overall framework of our program and the fundamental elements that are included in it. The unique features of our program are evident in its comprehensive character and the individual course offerings based on our faculty's particular areas of teaching and research interest. Given the diversity of our faculty's background and training, and its strengths in a number of related areas in the field of Religion and Culture, we believe we have the breadth and depth in intellectual resources to deliver an attractive Master's program which in all respects will either be on par with, or superior to, any similar program offered in Canada.

From our research on trends and developments in graduate programs in Canada we have determined that most established Departments tend to emphasize “tradition- based” program and curricular structures that involve in-depth concentration in the history, languages and texts of specific religious traditions. However, this tradition-based approach needs to be complemented by significant attention to comparative and methodological issues involved in studying religious traditions in their contemporary settings. The effect of this trend is that students are being offered, and are now increasingly seeking to enroll in, programs that are more comprehensive, inclusive and contemporary in emphasis, as well as flexible in their design. Students are also looking for programs that give them opportunities to acquire teaching experience and research skills that are broadly relevant and applicable to our field. Our proposed program intends to meet these expectations of the field and those intending to pursue this field as the major focus of their academic interest.

A further strength in our proposed program is the provision made for students to take cognate graduate courses in related academic units. We have identified a number of courses in Anthropology, English, History, Philosophy, and Sociology that can serve the interests of students whose thesis research will benefit from the course contents involved. These courses are generally of a methodological character and are supplements to our program and not required or integral to the Religion and Culture graduate program overall. However, these courses may be recommended and taken on an elective basis as part of a student's individual program to support his/her interests or needs. The courses concerned support the aims and intentions of the program, and at the same time give the students an opportunity to participate in courses and interact with students in other units of the university.

Our proposed program does not duplicate any other program on our campus. The colleges of the Saskatoon Theological Union offer the Master of Sacred Theology degree, as well as professional Masters of Divinity programs for church ministry; these are distinct and different from our own academic program.

Expertise of the Sponsoring Unit

The primary sponsoring unit for the program is the Religion and Culture Department in the College of Arts and Science at the University of Saskatchewan. Core teaching faculty in the program are drawn from the College of Arts and Science as well as Saint Thomas More College. The seven faculty members who comprise the operating core of the M.A. program are drawn from the two Religion and Culture units (three faculty members from Arts and Science and four [pending one anticipated new hire] from STM). Saint Thomas More College is federated with our university and its Religion and Culture faculty are fully integrated into our Religion and Culture academic program development and delivery. The STM faculty members will therefore also participate fully in teaching, thesis guidance, and governance of the M.A. program as faculty members of the University Department of Religion and Culture. In accordance with the recommendations of the Systematic Program Review, faculty from the Saskatoon Theological Union (STU) will also participate in graduate teaching where STU graduate courses correspond with student interests, in consultation with the Department.

The Department of Religion and Culture/Religious Studies has been in operation for twenty-four years. In 1996, the department was extensively reviewed by a team of external examiners. The review team reported:

Following a careful and systematic examination of the written materials provided together with the many personal interviews on-site, we are confident in reporting that the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Saskatchewan is an academic unit of high quality in terms of its various teaching programs (service courses, undergraduate major work, and so forth), faculty competence, research productivity and community outreach ... We were impressed overall by the high academic quality of instruction and research by the Department's core faculty and by the members from the participating institutions ... Clearly the Department has established itself as a solid and respected contributor to the academic life of the University of Saskatchewan.

Referring specifically to faculty competence, the reviewers further noted:

Arts and Science faculty in Religious Studies are well trained scholars of Classical and Modern Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism and Neo-Confucianism, and they are clearly capable of teaching effectively both graduate and undergraduate courses in their specializations, as well as more general introductory courses. Faculty in Religious Studies at St. Thomas More

College make invaluable contributions to the teaching of biblical literature and the early history of Christianity.

Similar sentiments have been echoed by the members of the SPR committee in 2004:

In the area of Western religious traditions, the Program is exceptionally well-served by (STM Faculty). These professors are all appointments at STM, and the university needs to be appreciative of the fact that this contribution is essential for the strength and range of the Department. ...The faculty in the western area is one that provides an excellent grounding for students at the BA level. ... It is judged that the academic preparation and research records of the tenured faculty(in the eastern area) enable good teaching and consultation to be offered to students ... There is no doubt that the faculty are committed to teaching and the continuing progress of their students. Evidence of this contention came from a meeting with a good sample of the Eastern Religion majors and honours students, many of whom planned to go on to graduate studies.

The mandate and design of the MA program require that the study of specific religious traditions and phenomena take place in the context of the wider history and development of religion, both East and West. It is therefore essential that the teaching faculty include scholars whose areas of expertise span a broad spectrum of religious traditions and cultures. Fortunately, our campus has such a cohort of experts. To quote the review once again:

Saskatchewan is fortunate in having comparativists who are open to other traditions than those in which they have specialized and affiliates in the theological colleges who are open to non-sectarian studies of the data (indeed, some of the most methodologically advanced courses are currently being taught by faculty teaching what on the surface are the traditional subjects in those schools).

4. DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

Please include a complete draft Calendar entry.

In particular, please indicate if a template is already in place for such a program (for example, if it follows the general requirements and standards of B.Sc. programs) or if new standards are being introduced for this program.

When existing courses are listed, please include the course title as well as the course number.

4.1 Program Orientation, Curriculum and Research Fields:

We have adopted an approach to course offerings that focuses on selected areas of general concern within the discipline with a view to exploring materials from both the Western and Eastern religious traditions pertaining to these areas, using appropriate theory and methodology for their analysis. These course offerings include seminars which focus on the methodological issues in the study of religion generally, the role of texts in religion, the relationship of religion

to other institutions, the place of religion in culture, and the effects of dispersion (diaspora) on religious communities, ideas and practices. The range of course offerings and the approach taken in them give students a broad exposure to critical areas of concern in the discipline, while maximizing faculty resources and their disciplinary strengths. In this regard a unique feature of our program, and an area of focus, is the interest that our faculty members have in religion as manifested in a variety of social and cultural contexts, both in historical and contemporary perspective.

The proposed graduate curriculum is structured to include both general exploration and particular examination of related areas of interest in the academic study of religion. The individual course contents are designed to provide entry into the course materials through a general orientation to the concerns of the course and into greater depth in the area through investigation of the issues involved as they appear in the teaching faculty member's particular area of knowledge and/or research. Thereafter, research on a selected topic will permit students to explore these same issues or related ones in one or more religious traditions of their particular interest. This will provide the optimum academic environment for the exchange of relevant ideas and information.

Thus, the place and importance of in-depth exposure to individual religions is highlighted in this design. Our faculty's knowledge of particular religious traditions is extensive and will be used in the context of our course offerings to provide specific examples that relate to the issues and concerns being taken up in the general course topic areas. In addition, students will be able to write theses on subjects involving specific religious traditions. Our faculty's knowledge and expertise give us the capacity to provide students with supervision on a wide range of thesis topics, using a variety of methodologies, in Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Taoism, and related areas. The following may be construed as major areas of research focus in the Department:

- Jewish and Christian Origins
- History of Christianity
- Judaism: Classical and Modern
- Religion and Gender
- Hindu Religious Institutions and Thought
- Buddhist Traditions and Society
- Chinese Religions and Society
- Religious Diaspora
- Religion and Popular Culture

Islamic Studies and Aboriginal Spirituality:

The Department of Religion and Culture considers Islamic Studies and Aboriginal studies important areas of academic concern that need to be integrated in Departmental long term planning and development. During the Second Integrated Planning process the Departmental proposal to give Islamic Studies a high priority in the future hiring of the College and to provide it an appropriately important place in the Divisional and College integrated plan was acknowledged by the College by incorporating a Chair in Islamic Studies as an important part of the College's Second Integrated Plan. Since then the College did submit a proposal to the

University for a Tier Two Canada Research Chair in the Area of Islamic Studies. While recognizing the value of that request, the CRC went to another humanities department. Subsequently we have succeeded in persuading the College to authorize a hire a two year term appointment in the Area of Islamic Studies while waiting for more long term academic scenario to unfold allowing a tenure track appointment in the area of Islamic Studies. We are in the final stages of making that two year term appointment with a well qualified Islamic scholar. It is our intention to add this field of expertise to our graduate program as soon the term appointee joins the Department.

Aboriginal spirituality also is an important area of interest to the Department's long term academic goals and objectives. We have emphasized the value of this area of interest in our Second Integrated Plan submitted to the College and are exploring ways and means of collaborating with some other departments in the College of Arts and Science and STM, including the Department of Native Studies. We certainly hope to add this dimension of expertise in our graduate program subject to the availability of faculty expertise in this important area of study in the field of Religion and Culture.

In the short term, these research areas will be considered subject to faculty expertise. In some cases, other research areas may be facilitated by participation by faculty in cognate departments on students' advisory committees. However, admission to the program will necessarily be contingent on the range of expertise offered by departmental faculty.

4.2 Program Structure and Requirements

The University of Saskatchewan M.A. in Religion and Culture program is open to all students with a B.A. (Hons) or its equivalent in a broad program involving significant critical exposure to religious traditions of the East and the West along with some familiarity with the methodological and thematic issues involved in academic study of religion. Students with a degree in a cognate subject with a limited background in the discipline may be admitted as probationary students with the requirement to do some supplemental work.

Students will normally take two years to complete the program. Program requirements will include a minimum of 15 cu of course work as specified below, followed by an M.A. thesis based on original research. The means by which students will meet the Department's second language requirement will also be decided at the time of admission into the program.

During the first year of the program students are expected to complete at least 9 cu of course work; the additional 6 cu may be taken during the first or second year, as appropriate. *In selecting their courses, students must take at least 9 cu of Religion and Culture in areas A and B, and 3 cu in Area C. The other required 3 cu may be taken at the graduate level in any of the three designated areas in Religion and Culture, or alternatively may be satisfied either by a 400 honours level Religion and Culture class. Students will consult with their thesis supervisor and the Graduate Chair when determining the most suitable courses for their programs.*

All graduate students registered in the program are required to take GSR 960 and enroll in RLST 990 throughout the continuation in the program.

4.3 List of Courses for M.A. in Religion and Culture Program

GSR 960 Introduction to Ethics & Integrity

RLST 898.3, 899.6 and 994.0 have already been approved and are listed on the U of S Calendar

RLST 990 Seminar - The graduate seminar involves paper presentations and discussions of issues in research methodology arising from current research by graduate students, department and cognate faculty, and visiting scholars. Graduate students must register in and attend the seminar on a continuous basis for the residency period, and will receive credit when they have successfully presented a seminar.

Area A: Western Religious Traditions

- 801.3 Seminar in Jewish and Christian Origins
- 802.3 Seminar in Western Religious History
- 803.3 Seminar in Western Religious Literature
- 804.3 Seminar in Western Religious Thought
- 805.3 Issues in Contemporary Western Religions

Area B: Eastern Religious Traditions

- 821.3 Seminar in Eastern Religious History
- 822.3 Seminar in Eastern Religious Literature
- 823.3 Seminar in Eastern Religious Thought
- 824.3 Seminar in Eastern Religions and Society
- 825.3 Issues in Contemporary Eastern Religions

Area C: Religion in Interdisciplinary Perspectives

Anthropology. e.g.:

ANTH 802.3 Ethnographic Theory and Method

English, e.g.:

ENG 801.3 Introduction to Textual Scholarship

ENG 803.3 Topics in Literary and Cultural History

ENG 805.3 Topics in Individual Authors

ENG 811.3 Topics in National and Regional Literatures

ENG 817.3 Topics in Literary and Cultural Theory

ENG 819.3 Topics in Methods and Texts

ENG 843.3 Topics in Genres and Contexts

History, e.g.:

HIST 801.3 Studies in Ancient and Medieval History

HIST 821.3 Studies in Early Modern European History
HIST 849.3 Studies in Asian History
HIST 859.3 Studies in Canadian History
HIST 861.3 Studies in Western Canadian History
HIST 880.3 History of History
HIST 881.3 Historiography
HIST 882.3 History Beyond Documents

Music, e.g.:

MUS 853.3 Seminar in Musicology I
MUS 854.3 Seminar in Musicology II

Philosophy, e.g.:

PHIL 818.3 Topics in Contemporary American Pragmatism
PHIL 819.3 Wittgenstein
PHIL 826.3 Seminar in Philosophy of Mind
PHIL 842.3 Topics in Philosophical Logic
PHIL 844.3 Seminar in Epistemology
PHIL 851.3 Seminar in the Philosophy of Science
PHIL 862.3 Seminar in Social and Political Philosophy

Sociology, e.g.:

SOC 813.3 Seminar in the Sociology of Religion
SOC 842.3 Women's Studies

Note: The list of cognate courses is illustrative, not exhaustive, and may include courses in departments not listed above. The Graduate Chair in consultation with the supervisor and the department concerned will advise students on the appropriate course(s) to be taken that may be counted towards fulfillment of the requirement in Area C.

4.4 Summary of Program Structure:

1. Minimum of one year of residency requirement.
2. 15 cu minimum course requirement, which may include a 3 cu 400 level Religion and Culture seminar or a 3 cu graduate class in a cognate discipline.
3. The program is thesis-based only.
4. The student's program will be defined at the time of admission.
5. There are no qualifying or comprehensive examinations.
6. Each M.A. student will have an Advisory Committee consisting of the student's (prospective) thesis advisor and two graduate faculty members appointed on admission. Their role is to guide and monitor student progress. The advisory committee will continue through the program.
7. Second language competency requirement as determined by the Graduate Committee.

4.5 Instructional Methods

The primary mode of instruction will be face-to-face interaction in a small group setting. Students will have opportunities to present the results of their research to departmental and

College forums and will be encouraged, and wherever possible financially supported, to attend conferences in our fields.

There are also an increasing number of academically valuable on-line web resources in the field of Religion and Culture which are accessed and used both for research and teaching purposes, particularly religious text databases. Students will be given instruction in working with these resources and guidance on critically evaluating them.

4.6 Program Standards and Evaluation

The Religion and Culture M.A. as proposed is at a level appropriate to a university, appropriate to the degree awarded, and appropriate to the level of students who will be enrolled in it. The proposed standards for admission, promotion and graduation comply with the College Standard. The program is not subject to accreditation, though it will be subject to evaluation according to established College procedures. Student views on the program format and courses contents will be solicited as part of regular evaluation.

Student Evaluation Criteria for M.A. Courses in Religion and Culture:

The sample course proposals attached to this Proposal for Curriculum Change include estimated percentages for evaluation criteria standardized across the proposals on the recognition that it will ultimately be the purview of individual course instructors to develop their own assignments and evaluation rubrics and that percentages assigned to the various evaluation criteria will differ from course to course. These criteria are offered as guidelines for M.A. courses in Religion and Culture:

Class participation (15%)

This criterion includes regular class attendance, evidence of familiarity with readings assigned for each class and active participation in seminar discussions, including the presentations of fellow students. Since discussion and debate are important facets of academic discourse, it is important that M.A. students work to develop these skills at the graduate level.

Research paper (30%)

Research papers should be approximately 25 pages in length with a substantial bibliography of publications relevant to a research topic relevant to the course. The paper should include an introduction with thesis statement, literature review, a description of methodology and theoretical framework, research results, discussion and conclusion. As academics in training, students preparing papers at the M.A. level should aspire to a manuscript suitable for submission to a refereed journal.

Presentation (15%):

Presentations should be 30 minutes long. Students should present a substantive summary of their research papers using appropriate audio-visual resources, leaving enough time to answer

questions from class members and the instructor. At the M.A. level, class presentations provide vital training in the skills needed to make presentations at academic conferences, and in undergraduate teaching.

Other Evaluation Methods (40%)

There are no final examinations required for these seminar courses. Individual instructors may opt to use other assignments and/or examinations, both written and oral, in order to gauge students' mastery of the course content, the methods of analysis applied to the course material, and relevant theoretical frameworks and schools of interpretation. In addition to demonstrating comprehensive knowledge of the course content, the student should be able to develop arguments and consider the material from various scholarly perspectives.

4.7 Language Requirement

Before completing the M.A. degree, students are required to give evidence of a reading knowledge of at least one language, in addition to English, elected from the languages of modern scholarship and/or necessary source languages. To satisfy the language requirement students must pass a language requirement examination conducted by the department, *involving the translation of a page of a source text, or an academic text in the student's area of research, of moderate difficulty, with the aid of a dictionary or lexicon.* This requirement may also be satisfied by undergraduate standing with one full course (6 cu) in a specified language *in which the student has earned a mark of 75% or higher.* The Graduate Committee of the Department in consultation with the student and his/her supervisory committee will determine the nature and modality of fulfilling the language requirement. This will normally be done at the time of the admission or shortly after student's commencing a program of studies. Each entering student will meet with the Graduate Chair at the beginning of the M.A. program to determine what language requirements are necessary to the successful completion of the individual student's proposed program. The decision on specific language requirement for each individual student will be communicated to the student in writing and will be part of the requirements for completion of the degree. *Students entering the M.A. program with a deficiency with regard to the second language requirement must complete 6 cu of coursework in a language specified by the Graduate Committee of the Department, and achieve a mark of 75% or higher, before the thesis defence. The Department will request the waiver of extra fees associated with graduate students enrolling in undergraduate courses in order to fulfill the language requirement. For a previously taken 6 cu language class being counted towards the language requirement, the class must have been taken within the four years prior to the commencement of Graduate Program of Studies, failing which the student will be required to pass a departmentally administered translation test as articulated earlier.*

4.8 Proposed management structure for the program.

In accordance with CGSR policies and procedures, implementation and governance of the M.A. program in Religion and Culture will be the responsibility of the Religion and Culture Graduate Studies Committee, appointed by the Head of the University Department of Religion and

Culture. The Chair of the Religion and Culture Graduate Committee will have responsibility for the day-to-day management of the M.A. program. Chair and membership of the committee will be open to all members of the University Department of Religion and Culture including faculty of the Arts and Science, STM and Adjunct members.

5. RESOURCES

Please describe what resources will be required by the new or revised program. Include information about the impact this proposal will have on resources used by existing programs. Please indicate whether the program be handled within the existing resources of the department or college (eg, faculty, secretarial support, equipment, information technology, laboratories, library resources, space, etc). If new resources will be needed, please describe how these will be found. Include any required memos from the Dean or department heads regarding resources.

5.1 Faculty and Staff

The program will be delivered with our eight core RLST faculty member contingent with primary responsibility for teaching graduate courses and graduate supervision (including STM), supplemented by other faculty resources within the Department of Religion and Culture (Ervin, Sharma, Khanenko-Friesen, Foley), and adjunct faculty from the Saskatoon Theological Union, and cognate departments, providing instructional support and research guidance and thesis supervision on as-required basis. The Department plans to offer four 3 cu graduate level class each year. Graduate courses will constitute part of faculty's normal teaching load of 12-15 cus of teaching during the regular academic year. This level of graduate teaching commitment has become possible on account of the following recent developments:

1. Recent enhancement in the tenure track teaching positions in STM, including a hire in Judaic Studies in 2009 and Christian Studies in 2011. These appointments will bring the STM tenured/tenure track faculty up to four by 2011.
2. ***Recent Arts and Science authorization to hire a faculty member to a two year term position with expertise in Islamic studies. The specific objective of this authorization is to provide interim instructional support in that area till tenure track appointment is made in the area of Islamic Studies, an important area of interest to the College of Arts and Science as identified in the College's second integrated plan.***
3. Recent reduction in the assignment of 100 level teaching of tenure track faculty in the Arts and Science from 6 cu to 3 cu. This has become possible by reallocation of sessional funds that have become available to the department through attrition of STU involvement in the Religion and Culture undergraduate program. This arrangement has no affect on regular upper level undergraduate teaching of the three tenured faculty (including a new Chinese Religions that commenced in July 2009) in the College of Arts and Science.
4. Eligible faculty from STU interested in participation have been appointed as Adjuncts with consultation from the Department.

Initially the faculty's graduate teaching loads will be as follows:

- a. The ***four*** Arts and Science faculty contingent will be responsible for offering one 400 level course and two 800 level classes annually.

- b. The **four** (with new hires) STM faculty will be responsible for offering one 400 and two 800 level courses annually.
- c. STU faculty will offer courses as available with consultation with the Department.

Both the A&S and STM Religion and Culture units intend to include graduate teaching (other than individual graduate student reading courses) as part of their faculty's regular teaching load.

Depending on the number of students enrolled in the program, the following may be construed to be tentative initial roster of classes on a two year cycle of offering:

Year I:

9-12 cu from the following:

- 801.3 Seminar in Jewish and Christian Origins
- 802.3 Seminar in Western Religious History
- 821.3 Seminar in Eastern Religious History
- 822.3 Seminar in Eastern Religious Literature
- 823.3 Seminar in Eastern Religious Thought

990.0 Research Methodology Seminar

Year II

9- 12 cu from the following:

- 803.3 Seminar in Western Religious Literature
- 804.3 Seminar in Western Religious Thought
- 805.3 Issues in Contemporary Western Religions
- 824.3 Seminar in Eastern Religions and Society
- 825.3 Issues in Contemporary Eastern Religions

990.0 Research Methodology Seminar

Note: In the initial years of the program with limited number of students registered it may be desirable to offer only 9 cu in each of the academic year. This will eventually grow to 12 cu on regular basis each year. Additionally in the area A, we fully anticipate 3 6 cu graduate level seminars to be offered by STU faculty; and a 3 cu 400 level seminar offered every year in each of the areas A and B. In the highly unlikely situation of two of the eight core faculty being on sabbatical leave in any given year, this will still allow at least 18 cu of classes to be offered each year, totalling 36 cu over a two year period, sufficient to give students choices for the required 9 cu of courses in areas A and B.

5.2 Academic Profile of the Core Faculty

The teaching faculty in the Religion and Culture MA program will consist of the following:

Dr. Mary Ann Beavis, Professor (St. Thomas More College - STM)

PhD, Divinity (Cantab, 1987), MA, Theology (Notre Dame, 1984), MA, Religion and Culture (Manitoba, 1981), B.Ed. (Manitoba, 1977). Dr. Beavis' research interests include studies on the Gospel of Mark, parable interpretation, historical Jesus studies, and feminist biblical interpretation and theology. Her recent publications include *Jesus and Utopia: Looking for the Kingdom of God in the Roman World* (2006) and the edited work *Feminist Theology with a Canadian Accent: Canadian Contextual Feminist Theology* (2008). She is the author of numerous refereed articles and book chapters.

Dr. Heidi Epstein, Assistant Professor (STM)

Ph.D., Systematic Theology (McGill, 2000), B. Ed. (New Brunswick, 1993) M.A., Systematic Theology (McGill, 1990); B.Mus. (McGill, 1984). Dr. Epstein's research interests include Feminist Theology, Feminist Theology of Music, Feminist Theology and Biblical Hermeneutics, and Religion and Gender Issues. Dr. Epstein is also engaged in tracing the unsettling reconfigurations of 'readerly' desire in a selection of romantic, jazz, and 'pop' settings of the Song of Songs. Recent publications include *Melting the Venusberg: A Feminist Theology of Music* (New York: Continuum, 2004); "Chastening Tale: Refiguring Woman Across the Christian Fundamentalist-Feminist Divide," *Fundamentalism and Women in World Religions* (Arvind Sharma and Katherine K. Young, eds.; New York: T. and T. Clark, 2007); and "Sour Grapes, Fermented Selves: Musical Shulamites Modulate Subjectivities," *Bible and Critical Theory* (Spring 2009).

Dr. Alexander Ervin, Professor (Arts and Science)

Ph. D., M.A. Anthropology (Illinois, 1974, 1971), B. A. (Toronto, 1965), Applied anthropology, environmental anthropology, cultural change and globalization, medical anthropology, and applied anthropological methods. His earliest research was on Inuit and Dene peoples' experiences of modernization and urbanization in Alaska and Canada's Northwest Territories. Later fieldwork work included studies on cultural ecological adaptations of Saskatchewan farming communities through to the 1980s. Research in the 1980s and 1990s focused on applied and medical anthropological research in Saskatoon with direct policy implications--studies of refugee communities in adaptation and integration to Canadian society; a community needs assessment for the United Way of Saskatoon with reference to human service delivery agencies; collaborative research through the Saskatoon Planning Council on the well-being of children; and participatory-action research with a group of blind and visually impaired people. In the last decade he has returned to his environmental anthropology roots and has done collaborative research through the political ecology paradigm on issues of factory farms, the nuclear and uranium industries and now alternative renewable energy. His most recent significant

publications include: *Applied Anthropology: Tools and Perspectives for Contemporary Practice* (2nd. Edition Allyn and Bacon, 2005); Ervin et. al, *Beyond Factory Farming : Corporate Hog Barns and the Threat to Public Health, the Environment and Rural Communities* (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 2003), Ervin & Holyoake, *Applied Anthropology in Canada: Historical Foundations, Contemporary Practice, and Policy Potentials* (2006). Ervin has published more than forty articles and technical reports primarily in applied anthropology.

Dr. Chris Foley, Associate Professor (STM)

Ph.D., M.A. (McMaster, 1980, 1975), B.A. (Carleton, 1970). Research interests include Near Eastern Archaeology, with a focus on the late prehistoric cultures of the Levant; spatial analysis; computer applications to archaeological research. Current research projects: concluding research as part of the Wadi ath-Thamad Archaeological Project (survey); Grace Adam Metawewinikh Project; Muskoday Archaeological Project. Selected Publications and Presentations: C.M. Foley and P. Warren, Review of *The Singing Neanderthals: the Origins of Music, Language, Mind, and Body*, by Steven Mithin (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press), *The Structurist* 47/48 (2007/2008): 86-93; P. M. Michele Daviau, Annlee Dolan, Jonathan Ferguson, Christopher M. Foley and Laura Foley, Christopher J. Gohm, Margaret A. Judd, and Michael Weigl, "Preliminary Report of Excavations and Survey at Khirbat al-Mudayna ath- Thamad and in its Surroundings (2004, 2006 and 2007)," *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* 52 (2008); P. Michele Daviau and Christopher M. Foley, "Nabataean Water Management Systems in the Wadi ath-Thamad," *Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan* IX: 357-365; C.E. Cordova, C.Foley, A. Nowell, M. Bisson, "Landforms, Sediments, Soil Development, and Prehistoric Site Settings on the Madaba-Dhiban Plateau, Jordan." *Geoarchaeology* 20/1 (2005): 29-56.

Dr. Natalia Khanenko-Friesen, Associate Professor (STM)

Ph.D., M.A. Cultural Anthropology and Ukrainian Folklore (University of Alberta, 2001, 1994), B.A. (Kyiv National University, 1989). Research interests include Diaspora studies and migrant communities, oral history, life story narrative, folklore, Ukrainian studies, post-socialist transition, Canadian studies. Her current research project is, "The Folk Connection: Diaspora, Homeland and the Ukrainian 'Other' in the 20th Century", is supported by SSHRC research grant (2007-2011). This multistage research project outlines and questions the role of folklore and vernacular culture in the interaction between diaspora Ukrainians and Ukraine. Selected publications include her recent book, 2009 - Kristina Fagan, Keith Carlson, Natalia Khanenko-Friesen. Eds. *Intersections of Orality and Literacy: Talking About Writing, Writing About Talking*. Toronto: U of Toronto Press. A recent Chapter in a book is: 2009- "From Family Lore to a People's History: the Role of Oral Culture in Ukrainian Claims to the Canadian Prairies." In *Intersections of Orality and Literacy: Talking About Writing, Writing About Talking*. 24pp. Eds. K. Carlson, K. Fagan, N. Khanenko-Friesen, Toronto: U of Toronto Press.

Dr. James Mullens, Assistant Professor (Arts and Science)

Ph.D., Religion and Culture (McMaster, 1994); M.A. (Anthropology, 1974); B.A. (Anthropology, 1972). Dr. Mullens' research interests include Buddhist religious institutions (India and Tibet), Buddhism in the West (North America), Tibetan Buddhist tradition (culture history and contemporary developments). Religion and Ethnicity, Contemporary Spirituality.

Two of his on-going projects are Engaged Buddhism in the West and Tibetan Buddhism in Diaspora. Recently he was commissioned by CTAC-Rockefeller Foundation, Washington D.C. to write a project report on “North American Tibetan Community Cultural Needs and Assessment Project”. He has also authored a monograph, *On Principles and Practices of Buddhist Education at Nalanda Mahavihara*, which has been accepted for publication by Siddhartha Publications, New Delhi. He has also written book reviews on some of major works in the area of Buddhist studies.

Satya Sharma, Associate Professor (Arts and Science)

M.A., Anthropology (Cornell, 1968), M.Sc., Anthropology (Delhi University, 1963), B.Sc., Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics (Agra University, 1959). Professor Sharma's research and teaching interests are in the areas of socio-cultural anthropology, economic anthropology and economic development, ethnicity and ethnic groups, business and industrial anthropology, political and legal anthropology, peoples and cultures of South Asia, South Asian diaspora in North America, history of ethnological theory, and rise of fundamentalism in South Asia. His initial research was in a peasant village in north India dealing with, caste, kinship and politics. He has subsequently done research on peasant movements in India, in a South Asian community of Western Canada, on the political economy of farm working in northern California and the Lower Mainland of British Columbia and on globalized television and its impact on the urban middle class of India. He co-edited a book on *Immigrants and Refugees in Canada* (1991), has published several refereed journal articles on caste, kinship, and politics in India, on the cultural costs of globalization in India, and has recently published two articles on the political economy of farm working in northern California and British Columbia. At present he is working on an article dealing with sex and violence in Hindi television programs and Bollywood movies, updating research on the South Asian community of Saskatoon, and preparing for research on the effects of pesticide use in farm working.

Dr. Braj Sinha, Professor (Arts and Science)

D. Litt. Comparative Philosophy and Ethics (Patna University, 1985); Ph.D., Indian Philosophy and Religion (McMaster 1976); M.A., Philosophy (Bihar University, 1967). Dr. Sinha's research and teaching interests and scholarly publications include areas of Indian Philosophy, Bhagavad Gita Studies, Hinduism in Diaspora, the Hindu Goddess tradition, and Indo-Judaic Studies. He has presented many invited conference papers and lectures at national and international conferences as well as well-known centres of higher learning in North America, Mexico, Europe, India and South Africa. In addition to several refereed papers and articles his publications include *Time and Temporality in Samkhya – Yoga and Abhidharma Buddhism*; *Contemporary Essays on the Bhagavad Gita*; and *South Asia Horizons: Essays and Observations on India and Pakistan*, (co-edited). He is co-editor of the interdisciplinary refereed periodical, *The Journal of Indo-Judaic Studies*. His current research interest is comparative study of Hindu and Jewish mysticism with special reference to Kabbalah and Tantra. In this area of his new research interest he has presented papers at Oxford Centre for Jewish Studies and the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion. He is currently working on a monograph on Hindu-Jewish Mysticism.

Dr. Santiago Slabodsky, Assistant Professor (STM)

Ph.D. (University of Toronto, 2009), M.A. (Duke University), GHL (Latin American Rabbinical Seminary), Lic. (University of Buenos Aires). Dr. Slabodsky's academic interests include Jewish Thought and Culture, Modern Rabbinics, Inter-religious Dialogue, Postcolonial Theory, Third World Religious Movements, and the Sociology of Religious Knowledge. His recent publications include: "De-Colonial Jewish Thought and the Americas" *Post-Colonial Philosophies of Religion*, eds. Purshumottama Bilimoria and Andrew Irvine (Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Springer, 2009), 247-268; "But There Are No Longer any anti-Semites: Vicious Circles, Jewish Destinies, and an Alternative Framework to Understand De-colonial Discourses" *Journal of Human Architecture* (Forthcoming, 2009); and "Liberation Theology" *Encyclopedia of Slave Resistance and Rebellion*, ed. Junius Rodriguez (Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2007), 293-296.

Dr. Stefania Travagnin, Assistant Professor (Arts and Science)

PhD in Study of Religions (SOAS, University of London, 2009), BA and MA in Chinese Studies (Ca' Foscari University, Venice, 2000). Dr. Travagnin's research interests and publications focus on religion and culture in East Asia, especially Buddhism in twentieth-century China, religion in Taiwan, Buddhist women in East Asia, Buddhist intellectuality in Modern/Contemporary East Asia, Colonialism and the Post-Colonial identity of East Asia Buddhism, and religion and film. She is currently working on a book on the revival of the Mādhyamika school in twentieth-century China.

Adjunct Faculty - Saskatoon Theological Union (STU)

Dr. Christian Eberhart, Associate Professor (Lutheran Theological Seminary)

Ph.D., Studies in New Testament, University of Heidelberg, 2000; MTS, Harvard University, 1994; B.A. University of Heidelberg, 1989. He is the Editor of *Consensus: A Canadian Lutheran Journal of Theology*. His primary area of expertise is New Testament Studies with a special focus on Christian social history and cultural expression. His involvement and expertise will strengthen our capacity for effective graduate program development and delivery in the Religion and Society area of the program, as well as in the Western religions area where his work complements the research activities of faculty engaged in research on Jewish-Christian relations in the formative period of Christian tradition.

Dr. Cameron Harder, Professor (Lutheran Theological Seminary)

Ph.D. in Theology, University of St. Michael's College, Toronto School of Theology, 1999; S.T.M. Grad. Theological Union, Saskatoon, 1986, M.Div. Lutheran Theol. Seminary, 1981; B.A., University of Alberta, 1977. His area of academic expertise is the application of sociological analysis to the study of religious dimensions of social and political issues. He has a particular interest in the relationship between religious views and social change in farming communities undergoing economic development.

Dr. Gordon Jensen, Professor (Lutheran Theological Seminary)

Ph.D., 1992 (Governor General's Gold Medal), University of St. Michael's College, Toronto, M.Div., 1984, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, B.A. (with distinction), University of Alberta, 1980. His areas of specialization are Reformation History and Theology. His primary interests lie in Luther's theology of the cross and its implications for today, as well as the history and theology of the Lutheran Confessions. The Lutheran Confessions play an important role in laying the groundwork for ecumenical dialogues and conversations today. Recent publications: *Walking Together in Christ*. (Winnipeg: Evangelical Lutheran Women, Inc., 2006); "Martin Luther's Theology of the Cross and Dalit Theology," in *Mission with the Marginalized*, edited by Samuel W. Meschack (Tiruvalla, India: Christava Sahitya Samithi, 2007), 238-59; and as Contributor, *Mission in Context: Transformation, Reconciliation, Empowerment. An LWF Contribution to the Understanding of Mission* (Geneva: Department of Mission and Development of the Lutheran World Federation, 2004).

Dr. Eddie Kwok, Assistant Professor (Lutheran Theological Seminary)

Ph.D., Brunel University, UK, 2004, M.Div., Regent College; 1986, B.Sc., University of Singapore, 1980. He has expertise in Chinese religions and has conducted significant post-doctoral research on "Chinese Religious Practices and Chinese Cultural Identity" at Nankei University, Tianjin, Peoples' Republic of China and has scholarly interest in globalization, religious pluralism, interfaith dialogue, and intercultural communications. His association with Nankai University is also of importance to the department as we have been cultivating ties with that institution for several years and intend to develop collaborative research initiatives with other faculty there in the near future.

Dr. Christine Mitchell, Professor (St. Andrew's College)

Ph.D., 2001, M.A., 1995, Carleton University, B.A., 1993, Wilfrid Laurier University. Her primary area of expertise is in genres in biblical and classical literature. Her involvement and expertise will strengthen our capacity for effective graduate program development and delivery in the religion and literature area of the program, as well as the Western religions area where her work will complement research activities of faculty engaged in literary studies in the Christian and Jewish traditions.

Dr. William Richards, Professor (College of Emmanuel & St. Chad)

Th.D., University of Toronto, 1998. S.T.M., University of Winnipeg, 1987; B.D., St. Andrew's, University of Saskatchewan, 1978; M. Sc., University of Western Ontario, 1974; B. Math., University of Waterloo, 1972. His primary area of expertise is Biblical Literature with a special focus on New Testament Studies and New Testament Greek. His involvement and expertise will strengthen our capacity for effective graduate program development and delivery in the Western religions area and complement the research activities of our faculty engaged in Biblical Studies.

Adjunct Faculty (Other)

Dr. Mengwei Yan, Professor, Nankai University

D.Ph. Nankai University, 1992, M.Ph. Beijing University, 1987, B.Ph. Nankai University, 1982. He holds degrees in philosophy with specializations in classical and contemporary Chinese literature. We have been strengthening our ties with Nankai University and plan to collaborate in graduate teaching and research.

Yuansheng Jiao, Professor, Xi'an Jiaotong University.

B.Ph. Nankai University, 1982. His area of specialization is Chinese drama, Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature. He has published 6 authored and edited books, including *Review and Interpretations of Chinese Classical Novels*, Peking University Press, 2004, and about 200 articles and literary works.

5.3 Cognate Departments' Faculty Participation

We have not included here the names and vitae of other faculty members in the College of Arts and Science and STM who have expressed an interest in our program and who constitute potential resources for the program. The Religion and Culture Department in Arts and Science will have associate members in Sociology, History, Philosophy, Language and Linguistics, Women's and Gender Studies (and possibly some other departments) who will participate in its undergraduate programs through cross-listed courses and committee work. In the STM Sociology Department we have colleagues who teach in the area of Religion and Society. In addition to these individuals, there are others in the College of Arts and Science who will become involved with the program over the course of time, initially as instructors of Religion and Culture students taking their (cognate) classes, and eventually as external readers for theses and possibly in other roles connected with the program. Involvement of these individuals is not essential for the program as proposed here, but their presence on campus provides a potential resource for the program's development in the future.

5.4 Other Resource Issues

1. The student admission/enrolment quota noted previously is related to faculty resource limitations, though an increase in that quota in future years will necessitate additional graduate work space. Currently, there is some student work space available in our former location in McLean Hall; it would be desirable in future for graduate student workspaces to be located closer to our new location in Arts, ninth floor.
2. No other program is being deleted as part of this proposal and no trade-offs will be made to provide resources for the proposed program other than reallocation of sessional resources.
3. Our graduate student recruitment to date has been primarily from the local region and we anticipate this will continue to be the case. Our students have all been able to manage

the cost of their programs with some limited assistance from the department and university.

We anticipate that our students will qualify for GTF and GTA allocations to the College of Arts and Science by the Graduate College. STM also has a limited number of GTFs available to students supervised by STM faculty. Our students will also be competing for any entry level graduate scholarships. To date our special case M.A. students have been successful in open competitions and with occasional allocations of graduate funding.

At present the Department has an annual allotment of \$7102 for student assistance which we use to employ graduate students for marking and teaching assistance. We have also received special grant funding ranging from \$250 to \$1000 which we have used to employ graduate students on departmental projects.

The Department produces two academic journals which can provide some limited employment opportunity for graduate students, though on an irregular basis.

4. Members of our faculty have held SSHRCC and other research grants in the past; Natalya Khanenko-Friesen of the STM Department of Religion and Culture is currently a collaborator on an SSHRC project, and in 2008, Mary Ann Beavis of the STM Department received an SSRHC Aid to Scholarly Journals grant for the *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*. We are aware of the benefits that grants can provide for students and will continue to seek opportunities for support from these sources.

5. The Department has a visiting speakers' budget which can be used to service the needs of the graduate program with special interest lectures. We are also regularly successful in receiving special lecturer funding from the College of Arts and Science and the University.

6. The Department presently has a 3/4 secretarial position. An additional 1/4 secretarial position would be helpful as the program grows.

6. RELATIONSHIPS AND IMPACT OF IMPLEMENTATION

Please describe the impact this program will have on department activities and on students, and on other departments or colleges. Describe the consultation process followed for this program, including any memos received.

As noted above, a regularized M.A. program in Religion and Culture will benefit the University, the College, and the Department in several ways: enhanced faculty development through graduate teaching and supervision; enhanced research activity and opportunities for major grant funding; enhanced pool of graduate-level research assistants; greater opportunities for teaching assistants for undergraduate courses. A regularized M.A. program that includes attention to Asian traditions will also assist the University to achieve its stated goals in the areas of internationalization and globalization.

7. BUDGET

Please indicate if budget allocations within the department or the college will change due to this program. Consult with the College's Financial Analyst (Financial Services Division) and submit the Budget Consultation form if allocations are required.

Division/College will be allocating one GTF for Religion and Culture M.A. Program.

College Statement

Attached to the proposal document should be a statement from the College which contains the following:

1. Recommendation from the College regarding the program
2. Description of the College process used to arrive at that recommendation
3. Summary of issues that the College discussed and how they were resolved

Please see email from Dean Dillon, dated Sept. 25, 2009

Related Documentation

Include any related documentation which is relevant to this proposal, such as:

- Excerpts from the College Plan and Planning Parameters
- SPR recommendations
- Relevant sections of the College plan
- Accreditation review recommendations
- Letters of support
- Memos of consultation

Please see documentation as enclosed, including Notice of Intent.

It is particularly important for Council committees to know if a curriculum changes are being made in response to College Plans and Planning Parameters, SPR recommendations or accreditation recommendations.

Consultation Forms

Attach the following forms, as required

Required for all submissions: Consultation with the Registrar form
Consultation has taken place and will come from the Registrar's Office.

Required for all new courses:	Course proposal forms, or Calendar-draft list of new and revised courses	
<i>All attached.</i>		
Required if resources needed:	Information Technology Requirements form	N/A
	Library Requirements form	N/A
	Physical Resource Requirements form	N/A
Required if budget allocation needed:	Budget Consultation form	N/A

New courses

RLST 801.3

Seminar in Jewish and Christian Origins

Instructors: Dr. Mary Ann Beavis or Dr. Simon Lasair

A seminar focusing on select issues relevant to the critical study of the origins and development of Judaism and Christianity.

RLST 802.3

Seminar in Western Religious History

Instructor: Dr. Mary Ann Beavis or Dr. Simon Lasair

A seminar focusing on select issues relevant to the history of western religious traditions, such as the origins and development of sectarian groups, the study of key figures and movements in the history of western religions, or the historical context of developments in western religions.

RLST 803.3

Seminar in Western Religious Literature

Instructors: Dr. Mary Ann Beavis or Dr. Simon Lasair

A seminar focusing on select texts from the western religious history, such as early Jewish/Christian apocalyptic writings, Jewish midrashim, or contemporary Islamic writings.

RLST 804.3

Seminar in Western Religious Thought

Instructor: Dr. Mary Ann Beavis, Dr. Heidi Epstein or Dr. Simon Lasair

This seminar will investigate the work of a select group of Western thinkers and their reflections on the relationship between hermeneutics, culture, and religiosity. The seminar will focus on hermeneutical questions, questions of cultural studies, and/or issues of theological anthropology.

RLST 805.3

Issues in Contemporary Western Religions

Instructors: Dr. Mary Ann Beavis, Dr. Heidi Epstein or Dr. Simon Lasair

A seminar focusing on select issues relevant to issues in contemporary western religions, such as the relationship between religion and culture, religion and leadership, and religion and social trends.

RLST 821.3

Seminar in Eastern Religious History

Instructor: Dr. Braj M. Sinha, Dr. James G. Mullens or Dr. George Keyworth

This seminar offers a critical study of the role of religion in Asian cultural history. The seminar gives attention to the analysis of historical contexts, the evolution of religious doctrines, and the influence of religious values and institutions on social, political and economic systems.

RLST 822.3**Seminar in Eastern Religious Literature****Instructors:** Dr. Braj M. Sinha, Dr. James G. Mullens or Dr. George Keyworth

This seminar will examine selected textual materials from one or more of the Asian religions. Issues surrounding form, content and interpretation will be studied in relation to the text's role and purpose(s) in contextual environments.

RLST 823.3**Seminar in Eastern Religious Thought****Instructor:** Dr. Braj M. Sinha or Dr. James G. Mullens

This seminar will investigate a body of Eastern religious and philosophical thought with reflection on the relationship between hermeneutics, culture, and religiosity. The seminar will focus on hermeneutical questions, questions of cultural studies, and/or ontological issues.

RLST 824.3**Seminar in Eastern Religions and Society****Instructors:** Dr. Braj Sinha, Dr. James Mullens or Dr. George Keyworth

The seminar explores the interaction between religion and society in modern Asia. Through the course the students will assess popular religious practices within their respective historical and religious contexts.

RLST 825.3**Issues in Contemporary Eastern Religions****Instructors:** Dr. Braj M Sinha, Dr. James Mullens or Dr. George Keyworth

A critical examination of important contemporary developments in Eastern Religions including new religious movements, environmental issues, developments of religious fundamentalism and religious right, issues of gender and equality.

Sub Committee evaluation for MA in Religion and Culture

Subcommittee: Dale Amerud, Russ Isinger, Angela Kalinowski

The subcommittee reviewed the documents submitted for the [MA in religion and culture](#).

Program justification: The objectives of the program are two: to provide students with advanced training in the academic study of religion to allow them to pursue further grad training at the PhD level; to enhance faculty academic growth and research intensiveness through participation in graduate training. The program as outlined in the documents will meet these objectives.

In more general terms, the addition of this program will support the University's commitment to fostering graduate education on campus. It will also enhance the University's goal of internationalizing the curriculum since Eastern religions form an important area of focus, and Islam and Aboriginal spirituality may do so in the future. The sub-committee encourages the department to move in this direction.

It is also evident that religion is topic of concern in the contemporary world, so the proposal for an MA in Religion and Culture is timely and may well tap into an increasing demand for such programs. The Department of Religion and Culture fields demands for an MA each year and has graduated 10 special cases MAs. Regularizing the MA is likely to attract students.

Nature of the program and relationships: The proposed program is a two-year thesis MA. It requires that students take 15-cus of courses in graduate course in religion and culture, write a thesis and pass a second language exam. Initially, the sub-committee thought a 15 cu course load too heavy in comparison with other MAs in Humanities at U of S. However, a quick review of MA programs in western Canada (REGINA and U of Alberta), demonstrates that this is a common course load for a thesis based MA in Religious studies. Nonetheless it does raise the issue in the mind of one member of the subcommittee of whether students can actually complete this MA within a 24 month period.

Regarding the thesis component, the proposed program fails to state the length of the thesis. We recommend that the proposers rectify this. Regarding the language requirement, if an undergraduate second language class is required by a student, it may be included in his/her program of study and no separate tuition payment is therefore required.

In any given year of their program students will have three classes (2- 800-level and 1 400-level) from which to choose. In addition they may take 3-cus in a wide number of cognate disciplines. We appreciate the interdisciplinary flexibility that this latter allows students, but recommend that the proposers include documentation from cognate departments indicating their support for inclusion of additional students in their graduate seminars. As well, it is indicated that a memo of support from Arts and Science Vice-Dean Peter Stoicheff should be attached to the proposal, but it is not. The addition of such indications of support would strengthen the proposal.

The sub-committee applauds the proposers for drawing on a large body of faculty to support this program, from Arts and Science, STM and the STU. The faculty will be able to provide students with a

various areas of expertise and approaches to the academic study of religion. We do recommend that the proposers update the list of faculty contributing to the program (we note that one is no longer present at the University).

Resources

The program is to be delivered through a faculty complement including Arts & Science, STM and STU members. As noted above, the sub-committee recognizes the high level of collaboration involved and acknowledges the strength of the academic partnership agreement that exists between the college of Arts & Science and STM. The university also has a services agreement (Campus Services Agreement) with STM in place that recognizes reciprocal services provided between institutions (but excluding STU activities). The current service agreement is administered centrally and has no bearing on resources specific to this proposal.

As stated above, the proposal includes a request to waive extra fees associated with fulfilling language requirements. The waiver is not required if an undergraduate language course(s) form a part of the program of study for those students affected. The course would be included in the graduate student standard term tuition fee.

The sub-committee acknowledges that the program can be implemented using existing college resources. The administrative support (0.75 FTE secretarial support) was questioned as being sufficient to support such a program however, especially with the projected enrolments as identified in the proposal. It was also noted that the proposal did not contact ITS, FMD and the Library to identify any other resource requirements. As noted above, statements of support from the cognate college and departments did not accompany the proposal.

From: Lavina Williams [mailto:lavina.williams@artsandscience.usask.ca]
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2009 1:01 PM
To: Calver, Sandra
Cc: Jo-Anne Dillon; Peter Stoicheff; Braj M. Sinha; Sabrina Kehoe
Subject: Masters program in Religion and Culture

Sent on Behalf of Jo-Anne Dillon, Professor and Dean

Dear Members of the Planning and Priorities Committee,

I am delighted to offer my support to the proposed Masters program in Religion and Culture. The department of Religion and Culture has undergone a number of important changes during the past few years as noted in the NOI. I believe the proposed M.A. program reflects the new strength and vitality of the department.

The proposed program directly addresses the Strategic Goals of the College. The student experience will be enhanced by offering an imaginative and engaging program in Religion and Culture. This program will support innovative teaching and programming, and the program will significantly help the College sustain a dynamic environment for research, scholarly and artistic work.

I was especially pleased to see the strong link with the Saskatoon Theological Union colleges within this proposed program. I believe this collaboration will offer new and exciting opportunities for students and faculty, and it will enhance the capacity for research and programming activity and success.

This initiative has my full support and I congratulate the department head, Professor Sinha and his colleagues, for strengthening external relationships and interdisciplinarity. This will attract and benefit students.

Sincerely,
Jo-Anne R. Dillon
Dean and Professor

CC: Peter Stoicheff, Vice Dean Humanities and Fine Arts
Braj Sinha, Head Department of Religion and Culture

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LaVina Williams for
Jo-Anne Dillon, Dean
College of Arts & Science
University of Saskatchewan
9 Campus Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A5
Telephone: (306) 966-4232

The Saskatoon Theological Union
at the University of Saskatchewan

November 27, 2009

To: Jay Kalra, Chair, Planning and Priorities Committee,
University Council,
University of Saskatchewan

From: Lorne Calvert, Principal, St Andrew's College,
Kevin Ogilvie, President, Lutheran Theological Seminary,
William Richards, Acting Principal, College of Emmanuel & St Chad,
of the Saskatoon Theological Union at the University of Saskatchewan

Re: Notice of Intent for a Master of Arts in Religion and Culture

Thank you, Dr Kalra, for the invitation to indicate our support for the Department of Religion and Culture's request to establish a regular MA programme. Our colleges are able to see a number of ways in which we can contribute to such a programme and are pleased to offer our endorsement.

Administration of our library collections is now handled through a single electronic catalogue system already accessible through the University's own library website. It is a collection that, we believe, more than adequately covers the various areas of Christian history, ethics and philosophy, language and literature, practice and culture.

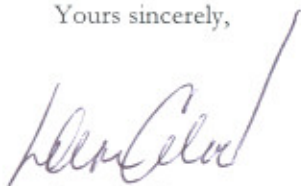
Our faculty also represents a range of scholarship in those same areas. The following are our tenured and tenure-track faculty who would be participating in the proposed programme on a regular basis:

Rev Dr Sandra Beardsall (SAC)	Rev Dr Cam Harder (LTS)	Rev Dr Beth Marie Murphy (ESC)
Rev Dr Jan Boyd (LTS)	Rev Dr Gordon Jensen (LTS)	Rev Kevin Ogilvie (LTS)
Dr Lynn Caldwell (SAC)	Rev Dr Hyeran Kim-Cragg (SAC)	Rev Dr Bill Richards (ESC)
Dr Christian Eberhart (LTS)	Rev Dr Eddie Kwok (LTS)	Rev Dr Don Schweitzer (SAC)
Rev Prof Walter Hannam (ESC)	Dr Christine Mitchell (SAC)	Dr Nettie Wiebe (SAC)

All of them teach courses at advanced level in areas relevant to R&C's proposed MA programme, and have experience either as readers or directors of advanced degree work. A number of them already serve as full members of the Department of Religion and Culture, or as representatives on its particular committees.

Again, we are happy to offer our support for the proposed MA in Religion and Culture, and look forward to working with other partners in its delivery.

Yours sincerely,



Lorne Calvert,
Principal,
St Andrew's College



Kevin Ogilvie,
President,
Lutheran Theological Seminary



William Richards,
Acting Principal,
College of Emmanuel & St Chad

From: David J. Parkinson [david.john.parkinson@usask.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2009 9:44 AM
To: Braj Sinha
Cc: Peter Stoicheff; Sabrina Kehoe
Subject: ICCC support for MA in Religion and Culture

Professor Braj Sinha
Head, Department of Religion and Culture

Dear Braj,

Thank you for inviting me to your Department's recent meeting and also for meeting with me twice to discuss some areas of possible co-operation between the Interdisciplinary Centre for Culture and Creativity (ICCC) and your proposed MA in Religion and Culture. One happy outcome of our meetings has been a clarification of some ways in which the ICCC and the MA may work together. I now foresee various opportunities for interdisciplinary courses, events, and research connected with the MA which will be of interest to the ICCC. The Centre is an ideal place for initiating and pursuing opportunities for collaboration with members of other departments and universities.

I welcome the prospect of close collaboration between the ICCC and the MA in Religion and Culture and wish you well with your proposal.

For now,

David

David J. Parkinson
Interdisciplinary Centre for Culture and Creativity University of
Saskatchewan

From: Mary Ann Beavis [mailto:mbeavis@stmcollege.ca]
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2009 1:08 PM
To: Braj Sinha
Subject: RE: STM support for the Religion and Culture M.A. program
Importance: High

Dear Braj,

In response to the letter of Jay Kalra re the Notice of Intent for a Master of Arts in Religion and Culture, I am happy to reconfirm the STM Department's enthusiastic commitment to the proposed program. The STM faculty who would participate are: myself (Christian Origins, Women and Religion, Religion and Popular Culture); Heidi Epstein (Religion and Music; Religion and the Body; Religion and Gender); Santiago Slabodsky (Judaic Studies; Religion and Postcolonialism); Natalia Shostak (Eastern European Cultures; Oral History; Ritual Studies); and Chris Foley (Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology).

Best regards,

Mary Ann Beavis, Ph.D.

Professor and Head
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(306) 966 8904 (fax)
mbeavis@stmcollege.ca

Academic Editor, *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*
Graduate Chair, Religion and Culture

Background information about St. Thomas More College and the affiliated theological colleges:

Federated College:

St. Thomas More College:

<http://www.usask.ca/calendar/stthomasmore>

Saskatoon Theological Union Affiliated Colleges:

St. Andrews College

<http://www.usask.ca/calendar/affiliated/standrews/>

Lutheran Theological Seminary

<http://www.usask.ca/calendar/affiliated/lutheranseminary/>

College of Emmanuel and St. Chad

<http://www.usask.ca/calendar/affiliated/emmanuel&stchad/>