

Philosophy Program Assessment
May 2017

1. The Program Goals were met this year. At this point, they refer exclusively to the Philosophy Program's goals for its majors. As mentioned in the 2016 report, I planned to broaden the scope of my assessment this year, after simplifying it in order to clarify the connections between specific goals, objectives, and outcomes.

2. I met with Mike Gorr, the adjunct professor of Philosophy, at various times over the course of the academic year to discuss his courses, students, enrollment in philosophy courses, and related issues. Also, Professor Gorr provided me with summaries and assessments of each course he taught this year.

3. Rather than broaden the Philosophy Program's goals to reflect better how it supports and promotes Wells College's overall mission, I've decided to suspend this work in view of a more basic objective (see #4).

4. Earlier this year I met with the Provost to discuss the Philosophy Program and its future in view of the recent prioritization report. Based upon this meeting and the faculty's decision to revise the core curriculum, I've decided to do a major overhaul of the Philosophy major this summer.

I've already begun work on this project. Several courses will be eliminated; others will be created or renamed and re-conceptualized. Beyond strengthening the Philosophy major itself, the primary purpose of this overhaul will be to better support the College's Mission by providing courses that connect with basic goals across the core curriculum and that support other majors and fields of inquiry.

5. Once the Philosophy Program has been revised and expanded along the lines noted above, I will amend and widen the program goals, objectives, and outcomes.