

Report of Queen's School of Religion—April 2012

Every month for decades, the Senate Agenda has included the heading: “Reports of Faculties and Affiliated Colleges.” As Principal of the only “Affiliated College,” Queen's School of Religion, I am writing this final report to Senate. On May 1, 2012, Queen's School of Religion (formerly Queen's Theological College) will become fully reintegrated into the University after 100 years of separation.

In 1912, Queen's College at Kingston (established by the Presbyterians in 1841) separated into two institutions, Queen's Theological College and Queen's University, in large part to facilitate the University's eligibility to receive public funding. The two institutions have shared this campus for 100 years and there has been a very close relationship between them.

In the 1960s and 70s a full-blown Department of Religious Studies developed from within the Theological College. The Department of Religious Studies functioned within the Faculty of Arts and Science in terms of offering programs, but from an administrative point of view it was part of the Theological College.

Currently as we move toward the merger on May 1, the School of Religion offers undergraduate and graduate programs in Religious Studies through the Faculty of Arts and Science and the School of Graduate Studies. It also offers its own programs in Theology which will now become the University's programs. Although QSR has had the right to award Theology degrees, it has never done so, relying on the Senate of the University to approve such degrees and on the University to award them. Senate has also historically approved the degree programs in Theology. The government of Ontario now grants public funding to Theology programs and has done for decades.

In anticipation of the merger, at its meeting on May 25, 2011, Senate approved a motion on the recommendation of SCAD that effective May 1, 2012 “the Department of Religious Studies be known and constituted as the School of Religion in the Faculty of Arts and Science.”

Queen's School of Religion welcomes the merger which will mean, among other things, that the separate Board of Management which has existed to govern QSR for 100 years will cease to function.

It may interest Senate to know that this merger also reduces the size of the Senate by 3 members because the School of Religion has always had seats on Senate for the Principal of the School, one faculty member and one theology student.

Thus, for Senate, this report is a farewell since the School will not hold defined Senate seats any longer. But it is also in other ways a return to the pre-1912 state where all the programs of the University will fall under one administration again.

You are all invited to a celebration of this merger on May 1, from 3:30-5:00 pm in the Fireside Room, Ban Righ Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Dickey Young
Principal, QSR