



Senate Committee on Academic Development Report to Senate - Meeting of May 25, 2011

Naming Proposal for the *School of Religion*

Introduction

The proposal to name the School of Religion in the Faculty of Arts and Science was reviewed by the Senate Committee on Academic Development (SCAD) at its meeting of May 11, 2011. A. MacLean, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science, attended the SCAD meeting to speak to the proposal and to answer questions from members of SCAD. Members of SCAD were also provided with background documentation provided by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. A copy of the documentation is attached to the report.

Analysis and Discussion

The following highlights are noted:

- In 2007 the Theological College and the Department of Religious Studies joined to become the Queen's School of Religion. This new structure and identity facilitated academic programs in both religious studies and theology to be maintained.
- Under this new structure, the University continued to provide the appropriate financial arrangements to support the undergraduate and graduate programs in religious studies;
- Discussions around the integration of the Queen's School of Religion and Queen's Theological College have reached agreement in principle and both parties will recommend ratification to their parent bodies;
- The target date for integration of the two entities is 1 May 2012;
- The proposal to name the unit as a School recognizes the historical role that Queen's Theological College played in the history of the University;
- Naming the unit a School is consistent with other units that confirm their own distinct degrees including the Schools of Music, Computing and Kinesiology and Health Studies;
- The School of Religion will function as any other School/Department within the Faculty of Arts and Science.

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Page 2

Motion

Pending a ratification of an agreement between Queen's School of Religion and Queen's University regarding the re-integration of their respective academic enterprises, effective May 1, 2012, that Senate approve the proposal that the Department of Religious Studies be known and constituted as the School of Religion in the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan P. C. Cole, PhD, FRSC
Chair, Senate Committee on Academic Development

Committee Members:

A. Brown, School of Nursing
S. Cole, Deputy Provost (Chair)
J. Emrich, Faculty of Law
P. Fachinger, Department of German
N. Fulford, B.A. (Hons) '12
K. Gossen, J.D. '12
P. Oosthuizen, Academic Colleague
T. Shearer, School of Business
R. Ware, Department of Economics
P. Watkin (Secretary)



To: Georgina Moore, Secretary, Senate

From: A.W. MacLean, Faculty of Arts and Science **Queen's University Memorandum**

Date: 4 May 2011

Subject: **Naming of School of Religion**

On 8th April 2011 the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Arts and Science passed the following motion: "Pending a ratification of an agreement between Queen's School of Religion and Queen's University regarding the re-integration of their respective academic enterprises, 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." This motion was previously approved by the Committee of Departments of the Faculty of Arts and Science at its meeting on 25 March 2011 and I request that this motion or one of similar intent be placed before Senate.

During the period 1841 to 1912 the University provided academic programs in theology and religious studies through its Faculty of Theology. In 1912 the Faculty of Theology was separated from the University and was duly incorporated as Queen's Theological College by Act of the Parliament of Canada. In 2007 the Theological College and the Department of Religious Studies joined to become the Queen's School of Religion. Both as the Theological College and as the Queen's School of Religion this body has maintained programs in theology while the University has been provided, under appropriate financial arrangements, with undergraduate and graduate programs in religious studies.

Representatives of Queen's University and Queen's School of Religion have recently been discussing the integration of the School into the University. The target date for this is 1 May 2012, the centenary of the current affiliation agreement between the, then, Theological College and the University. Agreement in principle has been reached by the Committee considering integration and the representatives of both parties have agreed to recommend ratification of the draft agreement to their parent bodies.

Should the draft agreement be ratified, the Queen's School of Religion will become part of the Faculty of Arts and Science. As noted above, the Department of Religious Studies has long been a member of the Faculty but there are a number of reasons why, after integration, it would be more appropriate to recognize this unit as a School including:

- It recognises the historical role of the Theological College in the history of the University;
- It recognises the inclusion of programs previously under the aegis of the Theological College within the reconstituted unit;
- It is consistent with the naming of other units (e.g. the Schools of Music, Computing, and Kinesiology and Health Studies) which have distinct degrees associated with them.

Please let me know if you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

Alistair W. MacLean, Ph.D., C.Psych.

Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science
Professor, Department of Psychology