

Proposed Transition Plan for the Administrative Merging of Philosophy & Religion and MCLL

I. Details from Proposal Agreed to by Provost Ainsworth, Dean Elwell, Dr. Phillips, Dr. Davies: Both departments would retain their current bylaws (including the standards for tenure and promotion) and retain their own budgets. Dr. Joshua Davies would serve as the department head for both MCLL and PHIL/REL. Additional leadership responsibilities for him include the overall responsibility for managing the budget and performing the annual evaluations for all faculty and staff. He would become the lead signatory for both departments and the sole representative for both departments on the CAS Assembly of Department Heads and Directors. He would also serve as both departments' representative to the Council of Academic Department Heads. A faculty member in PHIL/REL would serve as associate head for that unit and handle scheduling and assessment for the department.

II. Issues to be Addressed in the Transition Process:

- Involvement of faculty and staff in the process
- Budget
- Space and location
- Operational issues involving promotion, tenure, reappointment, and future blending of bylaws

III. Timeline: Complete during the 2015/16 academic year

IV. Specific Actions to be Undertaken in AY 2015-2016:

1. Empanel a committee with representatives from both disciplines to examine the possibility of greater coordination, sharing, or eventual merging of by-laws and some committees (whether RTR or other)
2. Hold joint meetings and department specific meetings, in which committee members (see IV.1) share findings and faculty discuss the issues involved in the transition process (see II).
3. Empanel a committee in Philosophy & Religion with Dr. Davies to discuss Philosophy & Religion concerns
4. Coordinate a system so that Evelyn Murray can keep separate budgets for the two departments
5. Review transition process in March of 2016 and submit report to Dean Elwell