1 YEAR FOLLOW-UP REPORT
Last Updated: March 29, 2021

Graduate Program:	**Philosophy (MA)**
Peer Review Team:	Dr. Andrew Botterell, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Law, University of Western Ontario Dr. Lorraine Markotic, Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Calgary Dr. Chris MacDonald, Associate Professor of Law and Business, Ted Rogers School of Management, Ryerson University
Site Visit:	March 5-6, 2019
PRT Report:	April 15, 2019
Program Response:	October 29, 2019
YSGS Response:	October 30, 2019
PPR Approved by Senate:	Jan 28, 2020
1 Year Follow Up Report Due:	Jan 28, 2021

As mandated by Ryerson Senate Policy 126: Periodic Program Review of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs[1], within one year of Senate approval of the PPR, a 1 Year Follow-Up Report is to be submitted to the Faculty Dean or Dean of Record and the Vice-Provost and Dean, YSGS, on the progress of the implementation plan and any further recommendations. This follow-up report will be also be reviewed by Programs and Planning Committee, YSGS Council, and finally Senate. The PPR Report to Senate may also include a date(s) for subsequent Follow-up Reports.

What follows are the PRT recommendations, the program responses, YSGS responses, and the implementation plan, including the 1 year follow-up status reports by the program.

The recommendations are divided into two broad categories: academic and administrative/financial and for simplicity, all of this information is presented in the form of tables.

[1] https://www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/senate/policies/pol126.pdf

ACADEMIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Faculty Arts Response	Philosophy Response	Program Action Items Timeline & Lead Responsibility	YSGS Response	Philosophy (MA) 1 Year Follow- Up
1. The Program increase the number of graduate courses offered in each of the Fall and Winter terms.	We will consider any written requests for new courses, yet are limited by budgetary constraints and faculty workload considerations.	The Program seeks to offer one more seminar in fall and in winter.	Chair will work with Dean of Arts to see if this is feasible. Chair has begun negotiations for additional seminars in 2020-2021. Lead: Chair	YSGS notes that decisions on the number of additional courses offered per year (if any) is at the discretion of the Faculty. YSGS further notes that if the program wishes to offer any new courses not currently listed in the calendar, those courses will need to be added in accordance with Ryerson University Policy 127.	The Dean of Arts approved one additional seminar to be offered in the winter term as of winter 2021. The Chair will continue to consult with the Dean on the feasibility of offering one additional course in the fall term.
2. The department hire a tenure-track faculty member in the History of Philosophy.	We have approved this hire and look forward to reviewing any future departmental hiring needs and plans.	The dept. has already passed a motion that its next hire will be an expert in history of philosophy.		YSGS supports the Program and Faculty response.	A new faculty member in Ancient Philosophy has been hired.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Faculty Arts Response	Philosophy Response	Program Action Items Timeline & Lead Responsibility	YSGS Response	Philosophy (MA) 1 Year Follow- Up
3. To stabilize funding for students.	The Faculty of Arts, YSGS and the Provost have recently injected additional funds to support graduate students. We are also holding grant-writing workshops and will ensure that students in this program are informed/ invited.	The Program will: (a) use departmental funds for small scholarships; (b) work with students to make them more competitive in pursuit of OGS's and SSHRC's.	(a) GPD will consult with Chair during admissions cycles about dept.-funded scholarships; (b) (i) faculty will provide feedback on their students' applications; (ii) faculty will hire more students as RA's and (iii) students will be urged and mentored to give conference presentations. Lead: GPD	YSGS supports the Program and Faculty responses. YSGS notes that the university recently invested substantial funds in graduate scholarships through the creation of the Ryerson Graduate Scholarships and the distribution of YSGS carry-forward funds in June 2019. YSGS will continue to advocate for increased funding for graduate students. YSGS also notes that it offers workshops for external scholarships and encourages the Program's students to attend (where applicable).	(a) Current Chair has guaranteed $15,000 for the GPD to increase funding offers to best applicants with multiple offers to make our student funding more competitive. (b) (i) instituted as on-going practice (ii) instituted as ongoing practice (iii) practice adopted plus GPD has instituted an annual First-year Philosophy Graduate Student Conference in Feb. (grad seminar instructors recommend the very best papers submitted in fall seminars) to enhance c.v.'s of applicants for OGS and RGS for their second year. Very welcomed increased funding by YSGS and the Faculty of Arts: YSGS funded Public Scholarships for 2019-

Recommendation	Faculty Arts Response	Philosophy Response	Program Action Items Timeline & Lead Responsibility	YSGS Response	Philosophy (MA) 1 Year Follow- Up
					2020 (3 of our students received these) and YSGS added Ryerson Graduate Scholarships to be adjudicated in tandem with OGS's beginning in 2020-2021 (3 of our students received RGS's). The Dean of Arts funded Arts Graduate Scholarships for 2020-2021; this will allow $3,000 to be awarded to each of our 14 first-year students for the spring-summer term. Arts funding for 2021-2022 will be even more generous.
4. Funding for the second year of the MA be guaranteed and, if possible, increased.	We support departmental commitments to 2nd year students and will do what we can to communicate with students any commitments to and opportunities for 2nd year funding. We have recently announced changes to how TA/GA allocations will be administered which we	The Program will: (a)guarantee offers of employment as teaching assistants or graders to 2nd year students in admission offers and publicize this on our website,	(a) Guarantee of employment to 2nd years (who want to work and whose first year T.A. performance has been satisfactory) to be posted on website. GPD will communicate the posting to webmaster in September for next admissions cycle. Lead: GPD	YSGS supports and commends the Program's and Faculty's efforts to pursue options for improved funding packages for all students, including in their second year.	(a) Done

Recommendation	Faculty Arts Response	Philosophy Response	Program Action Items Timeline & Lead Responsibility	YSGS Response	Philosophy (MA) 1 Year Follow- Up
	hope will help with this matter.	(b) explore whether small departmental scholarships for 2nd years can be guaranteed to students when admission is offered.	(b) GPD to meet with Chair. Meeting to take place by Feb. 2020 before admission decisions are made. Lead: GPD		(b) Done; each 2nd year student now guaranteed scholarship of $2,500 in each of the fall and winter terms
5. The student lounge be retained for use by graduate students in the Program.	Space is limited at Ryerson however we will consider the program's requests and needs.	The Program is committed to maintaining the grad student lounge.		YSGS notes that space issues are outside of its purview. It does, however, support the Faculty's consideration of the Program's request.	Commitment to maintaining the grad student lounge continues.

Recommendation	Faculty Arts Response	Philosophy Response	Program Action Items Timeline & Lead Responsibility	YSGS Response	Philosophy (MA) 1 Year Follow- Up
6. The Program take steps to increase its visibility as a place to pursue an MA in Philosophy.	The Faculty of Arts is assisting programs with the revising of their program brochures and is in the process of organizing a Faculty of Arts Graduate Fair to help showcase our programs to interested undergraduate students.	The Program will (a) hire a part-time communications officer to make effective use of social media to promote our program.	(a) GPD will discuss with Chair the hiring of a communications officer with hopes of hiring him/her/them to begin work in fall 2019 to increase application numbers for the next admissions cycle. Lead: GPD	YSGS supports the Program and Faculty responses. YSGS also notes that it has returned to graduate fairs in Southern Ontario this fall, has increased its marketing budget, is working with University Relations to update its marketing campaign, and will explore other opportunities to increase the visibility of graduate studies at Ryerson.	(a) Communications officers were hired and promoted our program before the admissions cycle in 2019-2020. In 2020-202l we hired three of our current students (now called 'Program Ambassadors'). They promoted the program, publicized departmental events, news, etc. on Twitter and through contacts with undergraduate philosophy clubs throughout Canada. One of our ambassadors, the founder of Philosophy Meetups in the GTA, had a list serve of thousands of students and others interested in philosophy through which he disseminated information about our program, our speaker series, grad

Recommendation	Faculty Arts Response	Philosophy Response	Program Action Items Timeline & Lead Responsibility	YSGS Response	Philosophy (MA) 1 Year Follow- Up
					conference, and other grad events. (b) Letters from faculty members to prospective students (as described in 'Program Action Items Timeline' column) have been posted on our website. (c) Undergrad. Conference for spring 2020 scheduled, but cancelled due to COVID; Will reconsider post pandemic
		(b) will post on website more information about faculty members' research and areas of supervision competence; (c) will explore hosting an undergrad conference where MA can be promoted	(b) GPD will invite faculty members to write letters to prospective students about their research, areas in which they have supervised, areas of supervision competence, and their approaches to supervision. Will post letters on website in Fall 2019. Lead: GPD (c) GPD will meet with UPD to discuss an undergrad conference. Initial meetings in Fall 2019. Lead: GPD		

Recommendation	Faculty Arts Response	Philosophy Response	Program Action Items Timeline & Lead Responsibility	YSGS Response	Philosophy (MA) 1 Year Follow- Up
7. The Program increase the number of international applicants to the Program.	We will work with the program and YSGS to consider any options to increase the number of International students admitted to the program.	The Program will seek a commitment from YSGS for a small, annual intake of international students not contingent upon domestic intake.	GPD will make the case for international students to the YSGS Dean and/or YSGS Associate Dean, Programs. GPD will meet with YSGS Dean and/or Associate Dean in Fall 2019	The Vice-Provost and Dean of YSGS will meet with representatives of the Program and Faculty to discuss increasing the annual intake of international students.	YSGS now allows our program to admit 2 international students not contingent upon domestic in-take (in the last two admission cycles, the domestic targets were met and one excellent international student entered our program)
8. Opportunities for academic work (both as TAGA's and RA's) across campus be better communicated to students in the Program.	We support this initiative. We also have revamped how the Faculty of Arts TA/GA allocations will happen in the future, which we hope will assist with this matter.	GPA will inform students before each term begins of their eligibility to apply for any jobs posted on T.A.G.A.; 2nd-year students will be encouraged to apply for marking jobs for BUS 221 Business Decision-Making in cases where they are a good fit.	GPD will liaise with instructors regarding BUS 221 marking contracts and the timing of the postings. GPD will inform students of G.A. postings for BUS 221. Lead: GPD	YSGS supports the Program and Faculty responses.	As we have been able to increase our TAships by 3 or 4 a year and hire all of our first and second years for 130 hours of GA work for fall and winter semesters, we have not encouraged their applying for BUS 221 or additional work that is likely to compromise their fulfilling the program's requirements. Some of our faculty with SSHRC grants have offered students small RA contracts (that they can feasibly handle).

Summary Statement/Conclusion:

The program has welcomed the reviewers' recommendations, and most have been successfully implemented. With the Dean's consent, we have been able to offer our students more course options; our first-year students are now able to choose to enroll in three out of five grad seminars in the winter term, rather than choose three out of only four course options. We have enriched our faculty complement with the hire of an expert in Ancient Greek Philosophy. YSGS and Arts have increased scholarship funding from which our students have greatly benefitted and will benefit in the future. The program has worked to make our best students more competitive in OGS and RGS competitions by instituting an in-house conference in which those recommended by their course-instructors can give presentations. In addition, the department has guaranteed $5,000 in funding for each of our second-year students who are not awarded more lucrative scholarships. Moreover, we are now able to accept more international students. Out program is flourishing, but we continue the efforts to raise our profile such that we will attract more domestic and international applicants.