



Senate Committee on University Planning
Academic Unit Review: Department of Religious Studies

Site Visit	October 24 & 31
Departmental Response to the Review	April 5, 2024
Implementation Update	Winter 2026
Midterm Review	Winter 2027

Review Team Members:

- Dr. Martin Adam, Associate Professor, Pacific and Asian Studies, Faculty of Humanities, University of Victoria
- Dr. Mary Hale, Assistant Professor of Religion, Faculty of Arts, Saint Mary's University, Halifax
- Dr. Erin Steuter, Professor, Department of Sociology, Mount Allison University

Note: The following recommendations are taken mostly verbatim from the external review. For context they should be read in conjunction with the department's formal response.

Recommendations of the Academic Program Review

1. Change the department name to something like "Religion, Culture, and Community."
2. Implement the CENL Major and Honours programs.
3. Develop and apply to establish MEd and post-baccalaureate certificate programs.
4. Resolve the \$60,000 financial dispute with absolute transparency and clarity.
5. Establish a post-doc position in Islam with external and/or Ebbutts Trust funding.
6. Create and hire for a full-time, tenure-track position in Global Indigenous Spirituality to be shared between the RSD and CENL.
7. Create an administrative position modeled after the Lab Assistant/Technician role at Mount Allison.
8. Increase promotion of RS and CENL, possibly including a student position of 10 hours/week to handle social media.
9. Work with students to establish student societies.

10. If possible and desired, create office space for Dr. Shumka on the same floor as other RS faculty.
11. Explore possibilities for sharing practica supervision in CENL with other faculty in the unit.
12. The University needs to increase the number of course releases associated with service and successful grant applications to encourage research.
13. Create and hire two full-time, tenure-track positions to be shared between CENL and two other units.