



Senate Committee on University Planning

Academic Review Summary: Department of Philosophy

Site Visit	October 9 & 10, 2025
Formal Response	March 13, 2026
Implementation Update	Fall 2027
Midterm Review	Winter 2029

Review Team Members:

- Dr. Arthur Sullivan, Professor, Department of Philosophy, Memorial University
- Dr. Steven Robinson, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Brandon University
- Dr. Catherine Lovekin, Professor, Department of Physics, 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. That the Department be properly supported to never fall below the critical threshold of four full-time members. It is absolutely crucial that the Philosophy Department maintains its size of four full-time members, through any due leaves or absences. This hard-working, high-functioning, cooperative group is a credit to the university, but it is running at full capacity. The Department cannot afford to lose any capacity, whilst still delivering this level of consistent excellence.
2. That the increasingly unacceptable issues with Hart Hall get proper attention and resources. First and foremost here is the lack of accessibility to crucial spaces; secondarily the functionality of certain working and learning spaces at all times of the year need to be addressed.
3. That the Department be adequately resourced to properly pay its TAs an acceptable rate. While it is beyond the scope of this panel to recommend such a rate, we are aware of work that has been done locally within the University community on just this question. There may be grounds there for a consensus to emerge.
4. That office space be made available for the Department’s TAs to work in. In addition to the need to grade papers in privacy, such an office gives students a highly valuable opportunity to connect more intensely with their advanced disciplinary colleagues, a factor well known to enhance the depth and impact of anyone’s education.

5. That a permanent Subject Librarian is needed, in order to properly support the Department on that front. That would ensure stability in absolutely crucial aspect of teaching and scholarship.
6. That communication to students about advising supports be consistently improved and advertised to students who need them; particularly in the areas of cross-disciplinary programs.
7. That the Department find ways to raise awareness of its unique disciplinary advantages so as to help lead the wider university community in adapting to the many challenges of AI, whether it be through developing relevant courses, taking lead roles on relevant committees, or etc.
8. That the Department move beyond the laudable individual responses by its members in their teaching, to develop some kind of departmental statement embracing those TRC calls to action that most impact the conduct of scholarship at Mount Allison University (the goal being to signal the Department's awareness of its discipline's historical role in facilitating colonialism in Canada and its members' accountability to lead on reconciliation initiatives where possible).
9. That the Department constantly revisit the core balancing act, between disciplinary/interdisciplinary, between maintain the Philosophy programs' core commitments and the ever-growing interdisciplinary extra-departmental commitments.