Executive Summary

Graduate Programs in Theology
Cyclical Review 2011-2012

Approved by the Graduate Program Evaluation Committee
Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Meeting of February 4, 2014

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Name of Program Reviewed</th>
<th>Theology</th>
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| Degrees                  | • Maîtrise ès arts en théologie / Master of Arts in Theology  
                          • Maîtrise en théologie pastorale / Master of Pastoral Theology (MPTh)  
                          • Doctorat en philosophie (Ph.D.) en théologie / Doctor of Philosophy in Theology  
                          • Doctorat en théologie pratique / Doctor of Ministry |
| Responsible academic units | Saint Paul University |
| Fields                   | There are five fields:  
                          • Biblical Studies  
                          • Ethics  
                          • Systematics and Historical Theology  
                          • Eastern Christian Studies  
                          • Spirituality |
| Final Evaluation          | • Good quality program with report required for the MA, PhD and DMin in Theology (report due in one year – December 2016)  
                          • Conditional approval for the MPTh |

PART 1: MA, PhD and DMin in Theology

Strengths of the Program

The evaluation process revealed that students enrolled in graduate programs in theology were satisfied with their academic experience and were happy with their professors. The evaluators were unanimous in their praise for the exceptionally high quality of the library at Saint Paul University, whose collections were the envy of all the experts. The members of the Faculty of Theology energetically addressed the issues identified by the evaluators. A problem-solving and planning process was initiated to reform the programs in order to make better use of available resources and to partner with other faculties and institutions.

Areas for Improvement

The evaluators noted a decrease in enrollment in graduate programs in theology and the constant challenge of recruiting new students, particularly Francophones. Given the number of programs offered, the number of fields of specialization and the drop in the number of professors, reforms are needed in the short term to ensure there are sufficient resources to deliver high quality graduate programs. In addition, highlighting the value of the library’s theology collection could be a significant asset to
recruiting efforts and could help promote the program.

Recommendations

1. In light of the reforms to the programs and their fields that have already been initiated, the academic unit will need to focus specifically on the governance of its graduate programs.
2. The implementation of the plan to replace professors who have left should be closely monitored.
3. Constant efforts will be needed to recruit students, and Francophone students in particular.
4. A plan to highlight the value of the library’s theology collections should be implemented to raise awareness about the program and assist in recruiting.
5. Relevant data on program completion rates and time-to-degree completion should also be gathered and analysed on a continuous basis.

Implementation plan

Calendar and deadlines
Recommendations 1 through 4 should be addressed in a report to be submitted in 12 months (December 2016). The next cyclical evaluation will be completed within seven years and no later than July 2020. Recommendation 5 should be addressed during the next cyclical evaluation.

Authorities
Those responsible for implementing the recommendations and monitoring their progress include the director of graduate programs in theology, the dean of the Faculty of Theology, and the Vice-Rector, Academic and Research at Saint Paul University.

PART 2: MPTh in Theology

The evaluators noted a decline in enrollment in all graduate programs in theology, including in the MPTh, as well as a decrease in the resources needed to run these programs, specifically decreases in the number of professors available. During the evaluation process, the Faculty of Theology decided to seek membership in the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), which would result in a change in the programs being offered. The creation of a Master of Divinity (MDiv) and a Master of Theological Studies (MTS) program would result in the elimination of the Master in Pastoral Theology program (hence the conditional approval of this particular program). Note that the external examiners were not unanimous in this decision, stating that it could hinder the recruitment of Francophone students. However, those responsible for the program reassured the examiners in this regard. The unit’s current associate membership in the Association of Theological Schools is the first step towards a major reform of practical theology education.

Recommendations

1. Constant attention to the Association of Theological Schools accreditation process is required to ensure such accreditation within the prescribed timelines.
2. The process that eliminates the MPTh in Theology and creates new programs to replace it must be carefully monitored.
3. Constant efforts to recruit both Anglophone and Francophone students are required.

Implementation plan
Calendar and deadlines

Recommendations 1-3 should be addressed in a report to be submitted no later than December 2016.

If there is no significant progress with the proposed transition to the MDiv and the MTS and no reform of the MPTh program, the MPTh will be facing closure.

Authorities

Those responsible for implementing these recommendations and monitoring their progress include the director of the graduate programs in theology, the dean of the Faculty of Theology, and the Vice-Rector, Academic and Research at Saint Paul University.