

## 2017 Philosophy Assessment

1. We had further discussion of the Senior Thesis option. We do think writing a senior thesis is of minimal value to students not planning to attend graduate school, and so we are content at keeping the thesis as only optional. But two recommendations: there needs to be more guidance available, perhaps on our "Majors" sheets, as to how students go about arranging to write a Senior Thesis; and also, it would be nice to find some way for a student's achievement in writing a thesis to be recognized on their transcript.
2. We failed to exchange papers or syllabi, but resolved to do so in next year's meeting.
3. We did survey one another's grading in general, and dished out the "Grade Troll" and "Grade Fairy" awards.
4. We had a brief discussion of our new assessment practices, and generally felt that it was a decent device for getting at helpful information. The regular completion of the assessment rubrics helps instructors keep in mind what their courses should be aiming at.
5. We discussed the extent to which Harrison might extend his teaching into the Religious Studies curriculum. The general feeling was that, while we encourage faculty members to explore their interests as they see fit, teaching other programs' courses should be kept to a maximum of one or possibly two per academic year.