Philosophy/Religious Studies

Program Strengths and Accomplishments
The department is to be commended for doing an excellent job in reviewing and analyzing the data and providing future direction for the department in terms of course offerings, scheduling of classes and considering varied modes of instructional delivery. The department has made a concerted effort in working on rebuilding enrollment by increasing their outreach activities and sponsoring campus wide debates and inviting guest speakers, etc. Even though student course completion and retention rates are not at the same level as the Division’s or colleges, improvement has been made and the faculty is to be commended for their efforts in this area. They are encouraged to continue their work on this. Approximately 96% of the students responding to the survey rated the “Quality of Instruction” as “excellent” or “good.”

Other Issues Facing the Department
The department has made reference to several courses outside of their department, which meet the same graduation/transfer requirements as their courses but perceived by department faculty as not being as academically rigorous. It is suggested that the faculty in the two departments meet to discuss this issue and see how it can be resolved. The faculty is encouraged to continue their participation in the process of developing Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment. Tutoring has also been identified as an instructional support service needed for students who enroll in economics classes. Additional campus funds have been allocated to provide campus wide tutoring. The faculty are encouraged to contact the Dean of Library and Learning Resources to discuss this issue.

Goals/Action Plans for the Next Three Years
- Improve Full Time/Part Time ratio and increase access to instructors
- Promote courses and AA program to the surrounding community
- Enhance student learning outside the classroom through the use of speakers and tutors
- Develop SLOs and assessment plans
- Increase technology (both for classroom equipment and online instruction)