



FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

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Memo

TO: Lon Knox
Secretary of the University

FROM: Susan Mumm, Dean

DATE: October 15, 2014

SUBJECT: **New admissions be temporarily suspended for the theology programs Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, and Bachelor of Theology**

The School of Religion has proposed that I consider temporarily suspending new admissions to the theology programs Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, and Bachelor of Theology. This proposal comes after ongoing, extensive conversations that I have been having with a variety of stakeholders involved in the programs. The School's proposal initiates the [Recommended Procedures Concerning the Temporary Suspension](#) of Admissions to Academic Programs and I will make my final decision on this after further consultation.

Over the past decade there has been a noticeable declining trend in applications to theology programs across North America, although somewhat more dramatically so at Queen's School of Religion. During this time, the School has undertaken extensive recruitment efforts, including significant curriculum redesign in 2010 and an increase in student bursary funding. Despite these efforts, enrolments have continued to decline, and the School's goal to have a strong cohort of students contributing to the academic culture no longer seems possible.

If a decision is made to suspend temporarily theology program admissions, the School of Religion will continue to offer a full complement of theology courses until August 2015 in order to ensure that full-time students currently enrolled in the programs will be able to fulfill the requirements of their degrees as planned. The School will work individually with part-time students to forge a plan for their studies.

The School of Religion is not considering temporarily suspending admissions to the undergraduate program in Religious Studies or the MA in Religious Studies. No full time faculty members or staff will lose their position as a result of a temporary suspension to theology

programs; all members of the unit will continue to work at the School in our growing programs in Religious Studies.

Temporarily suspending admissions to theology programs will give the School the time it needs to explore other ways to foster academic engagement with theology at Queen's, including the possible development of a Research Centre that will promote public engagement with religion and theology.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Mumm", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Susan Mumm
Dean
Faculty of Arts and Science