October 9, 2012

To: College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

From: Charlene Burns, Interim Chair
Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

Re: Program Elimination

We request elimination of the Pre-Theology Program (Code 408-900) that is found on page 57 of the 2012-13 Undergraduate Catalog. The Department approved eliminating this pre-professional program on 9/12/2012. The reason for eliminating this program is primarily that it is superfluous and a bit confusing to the very few students who have noticed it in the listings. Students rarely come into the university with plans for graduate studies in theology, or even knowing that they will major in Religious Studies. This is so because the desire to pursue this line of inquiry nearly always is an outcome of engagement with “the Big Questions” in the process of maturation. By the time most students decide to pursue graduate theological studies, they have already completed the two years that would have served as general preparation, and need careful advising to tailor the last two years of their baccalaureate degree to the particular demands of their preferred graduate programs. Furthermore, many seminaries (for those planning on the ministry) have no preference as to undergraduate major at all. All things considered, there is no need for the listing because no such program is actually in existence in any manner other than ‘on paper’ in our catalog.

Please let us know if you have any concerns about this request. Otherwise, we will appreciate having this program removed from the next possible Undergraduate Catalog.