

**Philosophy & Religion Regents' Advisory Committee (RAC)**  
**Minutes for meeting of 9/27/2021**

1) Introductions of members.

In attendance were: Eddy Nahmias (Chair), Marcus Weidler, James Winchester, Juli Gittinger, Greg Smith, Justin Biddle, Karin Fry, David Bell, Jennifer Meeks, Micah Lewin, Susan Rouse, Cecile Accilien, Andrew Reeves, Aaron Meskin, George Wrisley, Christine James, Fred Downing, Dan Paracka, Lisa Yount

2) Voted to approve minutes of 2/16/2019 (with addendum that Greg Smith had attended).

3) Voted to have a group develop common titles and descriptions for the common-numbered Philosophy courses to bring before the full committee to consider.

4) Voted for a group of representatives from Religion area to discuss developing a common-numbered RELS courses (e.g., Introduction to World Religions) to bring before the full committee to consider. [One consideration is that currently there is not a single prefix for such courses across the system—should we consider a single prefix?]

5) Reviewed Area F guidelines for Philosophy and did not see any issues to consider.

6) Voted to approve IB World Religions and IB Philosophy courses to count for USG's Required High School Curriculum (RHSC) for the Social Studies third course requirement (p. 4 of the list here: [https://www.usg.edu/student\\_affairs/assets/student\\_affairs/documents/Staying\\_on\\_Course.pdf](https://www.usg.edu/student_affairs/assets/student_affairs/documents/Staying_on_Course.pdf))

IB World Religions <https://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/curriculum/individuals-and-societies/world-religions/>

IB Philosophy <https://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/curriculum/individuals-and-societies/philosophy/>

7) Discussed whether and how we might provide any input from our RAC for the decision-making about the eventual revisions of the USG core curriculum. The committee agrees that relevant existing courses in Phil and Rel should certainly be included in any Humanities area, and that other existing or future courses may be appropriate for that or other areas or other learning outcome requirements, depending on the way the revisions proceed. The committee hopes that USG will seek and consider input from relevant RAC committees.

8) Discussed existing and future ideas to preserve and promote the Philosophy and Religion/Religious Studies majors, minors, pathways, courses, and instructors in USG colleges and universities. Concerns were raised about how USG and institutions may make relevant decisions about these issues, and how the RAC committee may provide responses to such decisions.