

**Philosophy Department Climate Committee  
Minutes, April 14, 2016**

All committee members were present.

We met primarily to discuss the steps that need to be taken in preparing to administer the next departmental climate survey. We also discussed Jim Sterba's recent survey of the representation of women on departmental syllabi (both graduate and undergraduate).

In regard to the climate survey, we decided the following:

- We will aim to administer the survey online sometime before the end of June 2016, with an eye to receiving all requested data analyses by the beginning of September. The survey will be administered online.
- In order to maximize confidentiality and responsible handling of the raw survey data, we will use an external company that specializes in the administration of surveys (an organization like SoGoSurvey, for example) to administer the survey, collect responses, and analyze our data. We may also hire someone (also external) to provide a summary analysis of the narrative responses to our survey.
- We will re-use the questions from our 2013 survey in order to evaluate our progress on the issues covered by that survey, but we will also add further questions (chosen, in part, from a list of suggestions submitted by our graduate students to the Climate Committee Chair in Spring 2015).

In regard to the (informal) survey of the representation of women on departmental syllabi, we learned that readings by women seem to be rather severely underrepresented in our classes. We discussed attempting to remedy this by (a) developing an online resource that would suggest readings by women that might be suitable for various kinds of topical units that are common in undergraduate courses, (b) sponsoring some kind of syllabus-development workshop, or workshop series, in our department, (c) raising awareness of this concern in our graduate-level teaching practicum, and (d) conducting a similar survey of oral exam lists and attempting to encourage people to give greater consideration to the representation of women on these lists in order to make a difference in our students' perceptions of the "canon" in their discipline.