

Assessment of Non-Academic Outcomes (Fall 2003 and Spring 2004)

Please provide the information below about how your unit assesses the extent to which it meets its expected outcomes. If you need assistance, please contact Dr. Virginia Wheelless at 565-2085 or on Groupwise email. This information is due in the Planning Office no later than February 2, 2004 and will be updated annually.

Unit: _____ Center for Environmental Philosophy **Date** 2-8-04 _____

Person Completing the Information Eugene C. Hargrove **Email** hargrove@unt.edu _____

Head of the Unit: Eugene C. Hargrove **Email** hargrove@unt.edu _____

I. Mission: Provide the mission of the unit and a statement about how it relates to the university's mission.

The Center for Environmental Philosophy is the center for Environmental Philosophy, Inc., a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization created in 1980 for literary, scientific, and educational purposes. The primary activities of the center are the publishing of the journal *Environmental Ethics*, the reprinting of important books through its book series Environmental Ethics Books, training and the promotion of research in environmental ethics through workshops and conferences, and the promotion of graduate education in the field of environmental ethics as well as postdoctoral research and professional development in cooperation with the Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies at the University of North Texas.

The Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies is the leading program in environmental philosophy and ethics in the world. The center, the journal *Environmental Ethics*, and its other activities call national and international attention to this program.

II. Previous Evaluations of the Unit: Provide a description of the evaluations/assessments conducted in your unit over the last 5 years and changes that have been made based on the results of these assessments.

1. The center has been evaluated in terms of its record of publication with regard to the journal *Environmental Ethics*, its record as a reprint book publishers, its record with regard to conferences and workshops, its promotion of postdoctoral research and professional development, and its influence as a disseminator of information on the internet.
2. The journal has been published on time and it continues to be the leading journal in its field in terms of subscribers. (Assessment: being on time and number of subscribers) No change.
3. Environmental Ethics Books has reprinted its first book, Birch and Cobb, *The Liberation of Life*, and at the request of the University of North Texas Press has begun selling the paperback edition of Max Oelschlaeger's *After Earth Day*. (Assessment: sales activity) No change.
4. The center held two panel discussions on environmental justice, one in Houston and one in Denton, and a conference on philosophy and geology, cosponsored by the U.S. Geological Survey, in 2000. (Assessment: number of conferences and workshops held) Center plans to increase its activity in this area.
5. In the past five years eight visiting scholars have spent time at the center and in the department for the purpose of doing research on environmental philosophy. (Assessment: number of scholars served) No change. Visits are initiated by researchers themselves.

6. In the past five years, the number of visitors using the web site has dramatically increased. In January 1999, there were 7,071 users of the site. In January 2004, there were 39,638 users. (Assessment: number of visitors served) Web pages are regularly updated.

III. Statement of Expected Outcomes: Provide a brief list of the expected outcomes for your unit for 2002-03 or 2003-04 as of this date. Each outcome listed must be capable of being measured by the means noted in IV below. Please number the outcomes (1 to x). After each outcome, describe how the outcome supports student learning and student development.

1. Publish journal on time.
2. Increase journal readership.
3. Increase visitation of research materials on center website.

IV. Measuring Expected Outcomes: Describe how the unit measures how the outcomes have been achieved and provide a list of methods and/or tools with the following information:

1. The journal is scheduled to be published at the beginning of February, May, August, and November. A calendar is used to determine if the journal was printed and mailed on time.
2. A report is compiled and submitted to the U.S. Postal Service by 1 October each year. The subscription figures on these reports between years are compared.
3. The College of Arts and Sciences Computer Support Services provides statistics for the use of websites on a monthly basis.

V. Use of Assessment Results: Describe how the results of the assessments described in IV above are shared with staff in the unit? How are the results used to improve the unit? Help improve student learning? Enhance student development? Meet the university's vision?

1. Since the center only has two staff and both are involved in publishing the journal, the information is instantly shared. When the journal is late, the causes are evaluated to prevent future occurrences. The material published in the journal promotes research and education. The journal enhances the university's reputation as a research university.
2. Since the center only has two staff and both are involved in publishing the journal, the information is instantly shared. When readership drops, the causes are evaluated to prevent future occurrences. The material published in the journal promotes research and education. The journal enhances the university's reputation as a research university.
3. Staff look at the web statistics on a regular basis. Overall usage is examined and use of individual pages. Adjustments are made as necessary. The website promotes research and education. The research material and other information on the website enhances the university's reputation as a research university.

VI. Changes Made Based on Assessment Results: Describe how the unit has changed (or why it has not changed) based on the results of the assessment of outcomes. Indicate the year the change was implemented. Please indicate how the expected outcomes have changed if applicable.

1. Although the journal has always appeared within one month of the scheduled publication date, there have been close calls. Adjustments are frequently made to the amount of time spent on manuscript review to insure that it does not delay journal publication deadlines. These adjustments occur two to four times per year.
2. Journal readership has not increased in several years. To correct this problem, the editor is stepping down as chair of the philosophy department to devote more time to the journal. This decision was made in the spring of 2003 and will take effect in August 2004.

3. Visitation of the center website has increased from 16228 visitors in September 2002 to 39638 visitors in January 2004. Although the web pages are continually updated and monitored, no major changes are considered necessary since visitation has more than doubled, indicating that the website is proving to be useful both nationally and internationally.

Signature of Person Completing the Form:

_____ Date _____

Signature of Unit Head after Reviewing the Form:

_____ Date _____

