

June 28, 2011

Dear colleagues and friends:

I am writing with good news regarding the Department of Philosophy.

We received official notification on Friday, June 24, 2011, that the University of Nevada, Reno, budget proposal recommended by President Johnson and approved by the Regents on June 17, 2011, did not include any reduction of faculty or elimination of programs in the Department of Philosophy.

We are delighted to hear this news, and plan to move forward enthusiastically with our numerous initiatives and activities instituted to serve the students, the university and the state:

- Included among our new initiatives are our **Ethics, Law, and Politics degree programs** (ELP). Beginning this Fall, we are offering an ELP major, minor, MA, and Graduate Certificate. Please visit our newly designed website for information regarding these degree programs: [ELP undergraduate programs](#), [ELP graduate programs](#).
- Another initiative is our annual [Paul and Gwen Leonard Ethics & Politics Lecture](#). The first Ethics & Politics Lecture featured Kwame Anthony Appiah speaking on Cosmopolitanism. We are happy to announce that our second Ethics & Politics lecture (Spring 2012) will feature **Professor Avishai Margalit**, George F. Kennan Professor at Princeton University (Institute for Advanced Studies) and Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Professor Margalit will give a public lecture treating philosophic issues of trust and betrayal and a public forum on the politics of the Middle East. We look forward to offering the university and the community the opportunity to hear one of the leading thinkers of our time treat such questions as: What role do trust and betrayal play in efforts to resolve deep conflict? Professor Margalit has written on contemporary moral issues, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and relations between Islam and the west.

- We will be continuing with our active **Guy L. Leonard Memorial Lecture Series**. Please visit our website <www.unr.edu/philosophy> for information about our Leonard lectures, symposia and conferences.
- And, of course, we will continue with our important day-to-day activities of teaching and advising students, and of engaging in philosophical research.

In the end, the budget cuts for the University of Nevada, Reno--though still severe--were not as high as originally proposed. As a result, the ideas about possible reductions and eliminations in Philosophy did not become proposals. Thanks to those of you who made an effort to limit the extent of the cuts.

Finally, I want to thank all of you--at the university, in the community, across the country and, yes, even around the world--who have expressed your support for public higher education in Nevada and for UNR Philosophy as part of that education. Such support, during these difficult times for public higher education, means a great deal to us.

Truly,

Deborah

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