

**Internal Academic Review Committee
Interim Report on the Review of Queen's Theological College**

Background:

The Queen's Theological College (QTC) had been scheduled to undergo an academic review in the 2003-04 cycle. However, the timing of the review has caused a challenge, as it is not in phase with the accreditation process for the programs in the unit.

In 2000-01, the QTC completed a self-study exercise and an external accreditation process conducted by the Commission of Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools of the United States and Canada (ATS). The ATS accreditation process is designed to ensure agreed-upon standards of educational quality at the institution under review. Upon completion of this process, Queen's Theological College received full reaffirmation of accreditation for a 10-year period (to 2011) by the Commission.

The IARC, following an examination of the process already completed by the QTC, concluded that the Queen's IAR process and the ATS Accreditation process, have the same general goal of assessing the quality and suitability of the academic endeavours of the units being evaluated and that to repeat the exercise would be an unnecessary duplication of efforts. The IARC decided to carry out an abridged IAR process that would involve constituting an Internal Review Team who would be responsible for the process. The IARC decided to carry out an abridged IAR process that would involve constituting an Internal Review Team who would be responsible for the process.

Findings of the Accreditation:

The reports of the ATS Commission on Accrediting and the ATS Evaluation Team are unanimous in their praise of the programs offered by the College and the excellent relationship that exists between QTC, the Department of Religious Studies and Queen's University. In addition, the Commission commended the strong, enthusiastic and productive faculty and the Unit's efforts in planning and evaluation. In particular, the Commission took notice of the vision and clarity of the mission statement and strategy document *Queen's Theological College: Into the 21st*

Recommendation 3: Additional Efforts in Student Recruitment

The Theological College's recruitment efforts are taking place within the context of broad-based declining enrolments for Master of Divinity programs (professional ministry). Several actions have been taken to address the College's need to strengthen recruitment efforts. A five-year strategic recruitment plan, including increased enrolment targets, was developed and adopted. External funding was sought and obtained for a new three-year contract position in Recruitment and Development (hired August 2004). New fields of study were developed to divers