Dear Dean Nagel and members of the Faculty Curricular Planning Committee,

The Philosophy department underwent a regular review two years ago and it was concluded, after the consultation with the dean, the president and both external and internal committees that that we will need to search for two tenure-track positions to replace both Angela Curran and Roy Elveton and that the new hires will need to be able to cover core areas in the history of philosophy, as well as supporting fields that enhance the curriculum. Among the gaps in our offerings noted by both external and internal committees, which take into consideration the needs that will arise after Professors Curran and Elveton leave the department, are: Ancient Philosophy, History of Modern Philosophy, Metaphysics and Epistemology, Continental Philosophy, Non-western Philosophy, 19th Century Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy of science, Aesthetics, Philosophy of literature /film.

Given that our new major puts strong emphasis on the History of Philosophy, we decided that the areas of specialization for the two positions would be “Ancient Philosophy” for the first one and “Modern Philosophy” for the second. We advertised for one position in 2012-13 and hired Sarah Jansen, who teaches Ancient Philosophy, and will also teach Animal Ethics for us and ENTS and Philosophy of Film for us and CAMS.

We would now like to request the other tenure-track hire, starting in 2014-15, and we will advertise it with the area of specialization in “History of Modern Philosophy (including Kant)” and we will keep the Area of Concentration as “Open” but will list the areas in which we don’t have teaching needs and will look out for those candidates who can help us diversify our course offerings. We will have it as our guideline that the department has teaching needs in philosophy of science, Continental, 18-19th century philosophy, American Pragmatism, Medieval, feminist philosophy, metaphysics, non-Western philosophical traditions.

Here is our proposed description for the position:
AOS: History of Modern Philosophy (including Kant)
AOC: Open, but the department does not have teaching needs in ethics, aesthetics, ancient philosophy or political philosophy.