


TO: Chris Theo, Chair
Department of Art and Design

FROM: Mary Hoffman 
Director of Academic Planning and Assessment

DATE: September 20, 2018

RE: Academic Program Review of the Department of Art and Design

On behalf of the Provost, I am writing to conclude the 2017-2018 academic program review process. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of your staff to continually improve the high quality of the Art and Design program at UW-Eau Claire. As noted in the memo you received from the Academic Policies Committee (APC) the program review process included many commendations, and identified several key areas of program strength, including those highlighted below.

- A committed and skilled faculty that has creatively addressed challenges resulting from budget cuts
- Engagement with the community through exhibits, class projects, and contributions to planning for the Pablo Center
- Excellent student and faculty work exhibited in the Foster Gallery
- A commitment to providing students with access to Liberal Education course work in the visual arts
- Focused effort on program assessment
- Awareness of a need to refocus department efforts through a strategic planning process

We appreciate the challenging environment of the past several years and congratulate the department on its accomplishments in the face of those challenges.

We concur with APC's recommendation to "change in form or direction" with the understanding that the department has already undertaken significant curriculum revision and begun a strategic planning process.

We recommend that the department act on the following items that emerged from the program review process:

- Develop a department strategic plan with a focus on setting goals attainable within existing resources. In developing the plan, please consider the following suggestions:
 - Identify shared department goals to which all faculty feel they can make meaningful contributions.
 - Consider whether the level of specialization in the curriculum results in resources not being directed where they can have the most impact.
 - Identify further ways that the unit can engage with the community, particularly with the Pablo Center. Expand opportunities for studio art students to work in the community. Strongly consider the perspective of the external reviewer on this issue.
 - Identify ways to more effectively use general faculty expertise by developing methods by which faculty provide artistic insight to students outside their area of specialization.
 - Develop ways to encourage and support faculty development to expand skill sets.

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AND

- Place the proposed BFA on hold until completion of the department strategic plan. If the BFA remains consistent with future direction, consider the suggestions of the external reviewer for further refinement and work to reduce credits in the major so that the BFA can be completed within 120 total credits. The department does not need to comply with the recommendation of eliminating the BFA degree by the end of fall semester 2018. This action may be postponed until the completion of strategic planning in order to allow the program to consider the feasibility of an alternative BFA.
- Continue exploring creative ways to structure studio classes to achieve meaningful learning outcomes in combination with careful use of resources.
- Continue curating interdisciplinary programming in the Foster Gallery.
- Carefully monitor any course enrolling fewer than 10-12 students and adjust curriculum or scheduling to either grow or eliminate those low enrollment sections.
- Continue to share teaching duties in introductory courses.

According to the process and procedures for academic department/program review, in the spring of the second academic year after this review, your department will submit a progress report on the recommendations made in the review. For the Department of Art and Design, the progress report will be due to the Provost and the Academic Policies Committee during spring 2020.

Thank you for participating in the program review process. We hope the process has provided useful feedback for advancing the quality of your program. We look forward to working with you to meet the challenges ahead. We extend our sincere appreciation to you and the entire faculty and staff of the Department of Art and Design for your collective work and dedication to UW-Eau Claire and our students.

Cc: Patricia A. Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor
Rodd Freitag, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Chair, Academic Policies Committee