

Undergraduate Program Review

Film, BFA & BA

Executive Summaries

The Undergraduate Program Review (UPR) of the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Fine Arts degree programs in Film was conducted in June 2010. The reviewers were: Dr. Michael Renov, (University of Southern California, external), Prof. Christine Choy (New York University, external), and Dr. Suzanne MacDonald (Psychology Department, York University, internal).

Following receipt of the unit and decanal responses to the consultants' report, members of the Senate Joint Sub-Committee on Quality Assurance met with the following program/Faculty representatives on January 9, 2012 to review progress toward implementing recommendations and opportunities for program enhancement:

Barbara Sellers-Young, Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts
Scott Forsyth, Acting chair, Department of Film

Program strengths:

A number of specific program strengths were identified that include the following:

- the BFA program was acknowledged as being well established and as having increased the diversity of its student population by offering a relatively new BA program
- highly qualified and distinguished faculty
- a significant international reputation

Steps taken to strengthen the program and further opportunities for enhancement:

Various initiatives have been undertaken in response to the reviewers' report that include the following:

- the department continues to review its curriculum on an ongoing basis to ensure as much integration as possible across the programs and to make the best possible use of resources, both human and technical
- a new course has been developed and offered to address the need of cinema and media studies (CMS) stream students who desire hands on production experience; the intent of this offering is to allow for studio experience in large enrolment courses: the impact and success of this new offering should be examined
- the department has made a good start on efforts to improve communications with students and potential students, including through its website
- it is also working to build a clearer and more engaging identity and



integration for the cinema and media studies stream and its students, as well as to enhance the experience of its students - this is an area that likely warrants continuing attention

- while concerns relating to student advising issues appear to have stabilized, continuing attention needs to be paid to developing an identity for the cinema and media studies (CMS) stream, as distinct and relative to that of the studio stream, particularly as it relates to career planning and connections with industry
- the department has taken steps to enhance relationships with alumni to develop experiential education opportunities (for example, a new internship opportunity has been developed for CMS students) and to foster closer relationships between curriculum and industry - these initiatives should be fostered and evaluated
- initiatives to foster connections in support of the programs with the Toronto arts community and the profession, including alumni, appear to be successful and there may be further opportunities to enhance these initiatives in the future
- expanding successful existing international projects and student exchanges tied to the studio stream
- a pan-faculty summer institute geared toward high school students as well as continuing education has been under review; the program intends to play a significant role in this initiative with a view to contributing toward enhancing the Faculty's international profile.

Prioritized recommendations for implementation:

Several recommendations for implementation have been identified including:

- strengthening the sound audio teaching
- leveraging a strategic hire in new media
- developing a clear identity (including improving programmatic coherence and establishing distinctive career pathways) for the cinema and media studies (CMS) stream in order to enhance student satisfaction and improve retention and graduation rates

Rhonda Lenton, Vice-Provost Academic
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