



March 6, 2017

Senate Standing Committee on Program Review

Institutional Response: Bachelor of Fine Arts, Program Review Quality Assurance Plan

As Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and in consultation with the Provost and Vice-President Academic, Dr. Salvador Ferreras, I congratulate the faculty and staff of the Fine Arts Department for their efforts and commitment in undertaking a comprehensive program review. I applaud, as well, their readiness to make strong and positive changes with the next steps they have identified in the Program Review Quality Assurance Plan. Acknowledgement and thanks are especially due to Robert Gelineau, Chair of the Fine Arts Department, for effectively leading the team in this endeavor, and to Associate Dean Dr. Faith Auton-Cuff for so capably guiding the process.

The seven goals outlined in the Fine Arts Department's Program Review Quality Assurance Plan are visionary and achievable; they will need the combined support of the program faculty and staff, Dean's Office, and institution in order to be realized. The majority of goals identified, and the recommendations and responses that arise from them, are consistent with KPU's Vision 2018 and Academic Plan as well as the Faculty of Arts' Academic Plan. Of note is the student-centered focus of the Program Review Quality Assurance Plan and the goals articulated therein.

Goal 1: Increase space. The recently announced renovation of the Spruce Building will provide much needed refurbished space for five of the six streams of the Fine Arts programs: ceramics, digital media, drawing and painting, photography, printmaking, and 3-D, and third and fourth year studio space will also be added; art history will continue using existing space in the nearby Fir Building. It is a definite benefit to the students, staff, and faculty to be clustered together in one section of the building. Planning for the refurbishment has enabled the department to articulate their priorities and goals, and to work collectively. Although there is always a need for more space, with this refurbishment the space of the Fine Arts program has increased by 17% and brings the department in line with the studio space of other post-secondary Fine Arts programs in BC.

Goal 2: Develop MOUs with specific colleges. Facilitating movement of students from college-level certificate and diploma Fine Arts programs to the KPU BFA has been a long-standing goal of the Dean's office. Agreements with Camosun and Langara Colleges are almost finalized. However, the KPU block transfer process is an obstacle to the realization of these goals. An effective block transfer process for KPU needs to be developed and the Dean's Office is working with others at KPU on this objective.

Goal 3: Create an advisory committee. Enhancing community connections is an expectation of all programs within the Faculty of Arts. The Dean's office is in full agreement with this goal and requests that the department form the advisory committee by September 1, 2017.



Goal 4: Create an online planning page. An online information page on course rotations will help students better plan course schedules for their degree requirements. As well, this goal fits with the Registrar's Office implementation of the degree audit software, Degree Works. The Dean's office entirely supports this goal.

Goal 5: Increase studio access. Flexible studio access is necessary for students whose work schedules demand that they access the studios after-hours and on Sundays. Although there are liability and financial considerations associated with this request, both the Dean's office and the Provost's office are committed to achieving students' longstanding request for more access to the Fine Arts studios and services.

Goal 6: Improve marketing of the program. Raising the profile of the BFA is always of benefit, however, the suggestion that increased advertising is the main way to achieve this goal is not supported by the Dean's Office. In fact, current research has indicated that KPU's website, online calendar, and visits to KPU are more effective means to communicate with potential students than advertising (KPU Research Note 5). The Dean's office is happy to work with the department to strengthen these other means of communication.

Goal 7: Develop a minor in Fine Arts. The availability of a minor in Fine Arts will strengthen enrolment in Fine Arts courses and offer the creative problem-solving methodologies of Fine Arts to a broader student base. The Dean's office keenly supports this initiative.

Once again, congratulations to the faculty and staff for this positive team effort. The department has already undertaken a number of steps to address the goals of the Program Review Quality Assurance Plan. I look forward to working closely with the Fine Arts department as we move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diane Purvey', with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

Diane Purvey, Ph.D.
Dean of Arts

Cc: Dr. S. Ferreras, Provost and Vice President Academic
Robert Gelineau, Chair, Fine Arts Department
Carla Deresh, Divisional Business Manage