

Two-Year Progress Report of the Drama Program (BA)

November 2013

The below report summarizes:

- action take since submission of the program report;
- recommendations not acted upon, but for which action is planned;
- recommendations no longer considered appropriate;
- new ideas or initiatives, not included in the report; and
- other relevant information.

This report was prepared under the direction of the chair with substantive input from faculty members in the Drama program.

Action taken since submission of the program report.

The Drama program report was submitted in May of 2010. Since that time, the following actions have been taken:

- *Dean's Report.* During the 2010-2011 academic year, the department, at the request of then-Dean Ken Coates, engaged in a thorough and multi-stage dialogue regarding the relationship of the three disciplinary units within the department. A report was issued in spring 2011, which indicated robust support for departmental priorities and areas of focus that integrate the three disciplinary units; and for each unit maintaining areas of disciplinary distinctiveness. As suggested in recommendation nine in the reviewers' report, this process both clarified and integrated the relationship of Drama, Speech Communication, and Digital Arts Communication.
- *Faculty hire.* Dr. Naila Keleta Mae began her appointment as an Assistant Professor on July 1, 2011. Dr. Keleta Mae has expertise in performance, theatre, critical race theory, and feminist studies.
- *Personnel restructuring and hires.* In the 2012-2013 academic year, the Drama program identified a need for a Production and Theatre Manager staff position, as well as a limited term faculty position in theatre design (to address Bill Chesney's secondment as Associate Dean, Undergraduate Affairs). In the summer of 2013, the Drama program hired Paul Cegys, a three year definite term lecturer with a strong background in theatre design and lighting; and Janelle Rainville, who brings considerable expertise in theatre and production management, into the new position of Theatre and Production Manager.
- *Identification of program and curricular objectives.* In the 2012-2013 academic year, through a series of meetings, Drama faculty identified program and curricular objectives for the Drama program. These objectives will frame a discussion of curricular revision that is taking place in the 2013-2014 academic year.
- *Website redesign.* A departmental subcommittee, active in the 2012-2013 academic year, substantively redesigned the departmental website. These efforts resulted in significantly updated and improved Drama program pages, as well as improvements to the overall site. The new website went live in September 2013.
- *Improvement of production and pedagogical facilities.* The installation of a catwalk in the Theatre of the Arts is planned for December 2013. Discussions related to improving booth operations (the location of equipment for and operation of sound, lighting, etc.) in the Theatre of the Arts are underway.

- *Formalization of budget-allocation process.* In the 2012-2013 academic year, Drama faculty and staff and individuals in the Dean's office discussed the most appropriate funding model for Drama productions. The Dean's Office has allocated \$40,000 annually for productions. Faculty and staff will continue to consider the suitability of this arrangement and will formally review it in five years. Previous to this arrangement, production expenses were financed relying on revenue from past productions.
- *Increased departmental collaboration.* Per recommendation nine, there has been increased collaboration across the three units at pedagogical and scholarly levels, including a department-wide orientation and departmental research colloquiums.
- *Elimination of courses no longer offered.* Faculty have identified courses that are no longer offered in the Drama program, and these courses have been deleted from the university calendar.

Recommendations not acted upon, but for which action is planned.

- *Recommendation one, new tenure stream position.* The chair will continue to pursue possibilities for tenure line faculty positions.
- *Recommendation two, curricular revisions.* As suggested in the reviewers' report, attention to curricular revisions has occurred following the faculty hire the program made in summer 2011. Building on the articulation of program and curricular objectives completed in 2012-2013, faculty members in the Drama program are currently addressing changes to the degree program requirements, and anticipate presenting these changes to the Undergraduate Affairs Group for approval in spring 2014.
- *Recommendation seven, learning outcomes.* It is anticipated that the process of curricular revision, occurring during the 2013-2014 academic year, will support more thorough attention across the Drama program to course outcomes.
- *Recommendation twelve, recruitment.* Department faculty and staff met with Arts recruitment officers in fall 2013. It is anticipated that discussions concerning recruitment will continue during the 2013-2014 academic year.

Recommendations no longer considered appropriate.

- Recommendation five, new facility. This recommendation is wholly tied to resources and decisions at the university level.

New ideas or initiatives, not included in the report.

- A department-wide curriculum subcommittee has begun discussing the possibility of a department-wide minor. This would likely result in increased integration of the three disciplinary units, as well as faculty collaboration.

Other relevant information.

- Joel Greenberg, a senior faculty member in the department, will retire in spring 2014. This retirement increases the need for tenure track faculty. Although the chair requested a replacement position with a possible start date of July 1, 2014, this position was not approved. The chair will make another request during the 2013-2014 academic year for a position with a start date of July 1, 2015.