

## Faculty of Arts Strategic Planning 2012

Submitted by the Strategic Planning Task Force to the Dean of Arts, May 4, 2012

# MISSION, VISION, VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## MISSION

Waterloo Arts is committed to education and scholarship in the humanities, social sciences, languages and cultures, and the fine and performing arts for the benefit of the people of Ontario, of Canada and of the world beyond our borders. The education students receive in the Faculty of Arts, including its federated university and affiliated university colleges, offers them the tools and skills they need to succeed in today's diverse and changing world, while empowering them intellectually with the rich tradition of ideas and techniques of understanding that shape cultures and civilizations. The Faculty is a community dedicated to producing research of high academic merit and impact. The driving force behind all our work is a deep commitment to curiosity, creativity, and the desire to understand – and engage – the world.

## VISION

Waterloo Arts will be nationally and internationally recognized as a vibrant academic community with faculty and students engaged in a broad range of critical enquiry across its various disciplines. Waterloo Arts will demonstrate and promote its commitment to excellence in undergraduate and graduate teaching, including a commitment to expand its successful co-operative education offerings and to create and support new opportunities for students to gain educationally enriching experiences and to connect theory and practice. We will create conditions where all professors have both the opportunity and the expectation that they produce nationally and internationally recognized scholarship, and where graduate students receive the training they need to reach this level. We will foster an environment in which staff make and are recognized for contributions to fulfilling our Mission and achieving our goals. We will engage all those with an interest in the success of Waterloo Arts, including our partners on campus, alumni and the wider community. We will continue to produce graduates who are informed members of society, versatile and creative problem solvers, and life-long learners.

## VALUES

- Academic freedom and free enquiry
- Collegiality and cooperation
- Integrity
- Rigour
- Ingenuity
- Agility and adaptability

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Employ transparent and collegial decision-making processes.
- Make decisions in the long-term interest of the Faculty.
- Enable responsible pedagogical and curricular change, including adoption of new technologies and teaching methods when they make sense, while recognizing the value of traditional teaching methods.
- Facilitate new opportunities for students to learn and put theory into practice both inside and beyond the classroom.
- Expect all professors to produce peer-assessed research and scholarship of high academic merit and measurable impact either as influential basic research or as a contribution to the immediate concerns of society.
- Achieve an appropriate balance between teaching, scholarship and service for faculty.
- Enable and recognize the key role staff play as partners in achieving our mission.
- Facilitate organic growth in interdisciplinary research and teaching.
- Promote strong academic and organizational citizenship within the Faculty of Arts and the University and constructive engagement within the Region of Waterloo.