

## FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

### Institutional Quality Assurance Program (IQAP) Review

#### Studio Art

**Date of Review:** March 9 - 10, 2017

*In accordance with the University Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), this final assessment report provides a synthesis of the external evaluation and the internal response and assessments of the **Studio Art** undergraduate programs delivered by the School of the Arts. This report identifies the significant strengths of the programs, together with opportunities for program improvement and enhancement, and it sets out and prioritizes the recommendations that have been selected for implementation.*

*The report includes an Implementation Plan that identifies who will be responsible for approving the recommendations set out in the Final Assessment Report; who will be responsible for providing any resources entailed by those recommendations; any changes in organization, policy or governance that will be necessary to meet the recommendations and who will be responsible for acting on those recommendations; and timelines for acting on and monitoring the implementation of those recommendations.*

### **Executive Summary of the Cyclical Program Review of the Undergraduate**

#### **Studio Art Program**

In accordance with the Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP), the School of the Arts (Studio Art) submitted a self-study in December 2016 to the Associate Vice-President, Faculty to initiate the cyclical program review of its undergraduate programs. The approved self-study presented program descriptions, learning outcomes, and analyses of data provided by the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis. Appendices to the self-study contained all course outlines associated with the program and the CVs for each full-time member in the department.

Two arm's length external reviewers, one from Ontario and one from Ohio and one internal reviewer were endorsed by the Dean, Faculty of Humanities, and selected by the Associate Vice-President, Faculty. The review team reviewed the self-study documentation and then conducted a site visit to McMaster University on March 9 - 10, 2017. The visit included interviews with the Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Associate Vice-President, Faculty, Dean and Associate Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Director of the School and meetings with groups of current undergraduate students, full-time faculty and support staff.

The Director of the School and the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities submitted responses to the Reviewers' Report (August 2017). Specific recommendations were discussed and clarifications and corrections were presented. Follow-up actions and timelines were included.

### **Strengths**

In their report (May 2017), the Review Team noted that the Studio Art program is distinct and differentiates itself by its promotion of stewardship and environmentally responsible teaching practices; that the program embeds environmental responsibility into all of its pedagogy and research and presents an impressive convergence of research and life skills through ecological concerns. Further highlights identified in the report included:

- McMaster's position as one of only three Ontario Universities with an Art foundry
- Good retention rates directly related to faculty efforts to undertake individual, in-person portfolio interviews of all applicants
- Support received from the School of the Arts' Pieczonka fund to purchase new kiln and support of Faculty of Humanities and Facilities Services to upgrade infrastructure of room housing kiln
- Experiential and collaborative learning opportunities
- Close affiliation with Multimedia
- Strong ties to the community
- Civic consciousness and recognition of diversity (mindful and responsive to gender parity and inclusivity)
- Shared critiques open to community and commitment to peer-to-peer learning
- Well planned progression in course development from Level 1 to Level IV
- Well considered, newly renovated workspaces
- Commitment and attention to health and safety
- Highly qualified art faculty and high level of student satisfaction with faculty
- Curriculum provides students with skills in research, materials, digital media and theory
- Commitment to material-based learning and digital skill building
- Program is strategic and forward thinking in responsiveness to its own history and environment
- Significant increase in enrolment since creation of the BFA program (66.2%)
- Significant increase in service exposure to art raising the Art profile across the University potential of proposed Certificate Program
- Rigor of Level IV is in line with best programs in Art on an international level

### **Areas of Improvement**

In their report, the Review Team identified some recommendations for areas of improvement and enhancement as outlined below.

- The imminent termination of the 2.5 CLA and CLA technologist position and resulting destabilization is a matter of urgent concern
- Address the high workload demands on technologists and secure permanence of the second technologist position (currently a CLA contract ending in November 2017)
- Enhance faculty potential for research/creation by instituting regular artist in residence appointments, each lasting a term, with some teaching duties, to allow course release for faculty on a rotating basis
- Increase funding for the Visiting Artist program to \$6000 in order to raise the stature of the artists invited
- Improve the program's web presence
- Improve storage facilities, particularly in the sculpture area
- Improve communication with technologists regarding limits of assisting vs teaching and include them in policy making decisions
- Provide mentorship of faculty to move towards Full Professor
- Commit to improving the accessibility of facilities in any future renovations
- Continue to build greater synergy between art and the department of Communication Studies and Multimedia
- Address the physical constraints of the sculpture studio which are not well aligned with high enrolment caps for materials-based courses
- Improve student access to technical supervision (uneven response and difficulties with appointment booking system in sculpture)
- Provide access to small power hand tools outside of supervised hours
- Assess contact hours
- Acquire space to allow the entire Level IV cohort to have studios in one location
- Address the high teaching and administrative load currently placed on one of the permanent faculty
- University should provide matching funds for student fundraising for the SUMMA exhibition

The Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, in consultation with the Director of the School of the Arts shall be responsible for monitoring the recommendations implementation plan. The details of the progress made will be presented in the progress report and filed in the Vice-Provost, Faculty's office.

**Summary of the Reviewers' Recommendations with the Department's and Dean's Responses**

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Proposed Follow-Up</b>	<b>Responsibility for Leading Follow-Up</b>	<b>Timeline for Addressing Recommendation</b>
<b>Abandon idea of a Masters program for now</b>	abandon idea of a Masters program for now	all faculty and Director of SOTA	effective immediately
<b>Establish a Certificate in Studio Art for Non-Majors (increase courses for non-majors)</b>	Judy Major-Girardin is currently working to develop a certificate in Art for the School of the Arts as a whole. She and Sally McKay will begin work towards a Studio Art specific Certificate as well, with additional support from Briana Palmer.	Judy Major-Girardin Sally McKay Briana Palmer	Present Certificate in Studio Art as part of curriculum submission for fall 2017 to be Implemented in fall 2018.
<b>Consider a non-degree 1 yr. post BFA program (Special Student or Post-Baccalaureate)</b>	While we have explored similar options in the past, we discovered that the Ministry of Education will not fund a 5 <sup>th</sup> year. Nevertheless, we will continue to explore ways of creating opportunities for BFA graduates.	All faculty	On-going
<b>Increase funding for Visiting Artist program</b>	We will inquire with the Director about possibilities for increasing funding for the existing visiting artist program	Judy Major-Girardin	Request 2017-2018
<b>Increase support for faculty release time for creative activity and research</b>	We welcome the reviewers' suggestion to develop an artist-residency position that would enhance our Visiting Artist program and provide course release for faculty (as outlined in the report). We will begin analysis and develop a draft proposal for consideration by faculty, staff, Director and Dean.	All faculty and the Director of SOTA	if deemed feasible, implement plan in 2019-2020
<b>Develop a stronger website presence and, if possible develop an independent Studio Art</b>	We will initiate a discussion with Nathan Nash (Faculty of Humanities Recruitment Co-ordinator), Rita Crespo (School of the Arts Administrative assistant), faculty and the Director to assess institutional requirements for web presence, possibilities	Sally McKay	improvements to existing site by 2017-2018, new site established (if feasible)

<b>website linked to institutional website</b>	moving forward, and responsibilities for faculty and staff re: website implementation and maintenance		by 2018-2019)
<b>Upgrade computer and software</b>	A request for Piezoncka funding for a new computer and software was made to Executive Council in April 2017 by John Ford.	Judy Major-Girardin Agata Derda	Funding approved June 2017 and new equipment anticipated for fall term 2017.
<b>Address imminent termination of CLA faculty position</b>	Propose a permanent faculty appointment to build on the investment and achievements in art service offerings.	Judy Major-Girardin in consultation with full-time faculty and the SOTA Director	Proposal in 2017/18 for implementation in 2018/19
<b>Permanent hire for 2<sup>nd</sup> studio technologist</b>	Faculty is actively pursuing the request for permanent hire for 2 <sup>nd</sup> studio technologist	Judy Major-Girardin, Rose Mannarino, and the SOTA Director	November 2017
<b>Secure more physical space for storage of student work</b>	Faculty and staff are currently working to maximise effective use of existing space. We will also make a request for additional storage space based on the fact that during the renovation of our space we lost two storage sheds from the studio area, and our previous storage space in T-18 has recently been eliminated due to construction the new Living and Learning Centre. As noted in the report, our current lack of storage space is infringing on our pedagogy.	Judy Major-Girardin Carmela Laganse	if feasible, implementation in 2017-2018
<b>Improve communication with technologists regarding limits of assisting vs teaching and include them in policy making consultation</b>	We have put new procedures in place to improve communication between faculty and staff, including bi- weekly meetings at which staff will be present when issues relevant to them arise	all faculty, technologists, and administrative coordinator	effective immediately, with ongoing commitment
<b>Provide mentorship of faculty to move towards Full Professor</b>	An initiative to explore promotion of one studio faculty member to full professor is already in progress	Director of SOTA	A decision on whether or not this case should proceed to the Faculty of Humanities at this

			time will be made in fall 2017
<b>Commit to accommodating the disabled in future facilities enhancements</b>	While reviewers did not indicate specific concerns in the report, we recognize the importance of accessibility as a priority. Several accessibility issues were addressed in our recent renovation: an elevator was installed, the main entrance is at grade level and our new washrooms are wheelchair accessible and gender neutral. In addition, we commit to enhancing accessibility of the physical space at every opportunity. Actions include a commitment to keep the entrances to the elevator clear, a request that the button access to doors to TSH east tower is maintained in good working order, and the prioritizing of accessible internal doorways and key swipe stations in any future enhancements to the facility.	all faculty and staff	immediate and ongoing
<b>Create greater synergy between Art and the department of Communication Studies and Multimedia</b>	We will continue to build on collegial relations instigated by Chris Myhr in his previous cross- appointed CLA position bridging Art and MM. While this faculty member now holds a tenure-track research position in Communication Studies and Multimedia he will be teaching Studio Art students and Multi- Media students in some cross-listed courses. Chris has volunteered to continue to act as a liaison between Art and Multimedia, and we welcome his contributions.	Chris Myhr	effective immediately
<b>Address physical constraints in sculpture studio, class sizes too large for materials-based learning</b>	We recognize the validity of this comment. While there is great pressure to maintain high enrolment caps, faculty and technologists are currently working to effectively maximize our use of space and equipment	Carmela Laganse Michael Syms	immediate and ongoing
<b>Improve student access to technical supervision</b>	Faculty, technologists and the administrative coordinator are currently establishing new protocols to address this issue, including better communication between faculty, students and technologists around available assistance and more transparent scheduling processes	all faculty, technologists and administrative coordinator	effective immediately, with ongoing commitment

<b>Provide access to small power hand tools outside of supervised hours</b>	Sculpture faculty and technologist will compile a set of tools that are deemed low risk and can be signed out by students for use outside of supervised hours and establish a protocol for access to these tools	Carmela Laganse Michael Syms	2017-2018
<b>Acquire space to allow the entire Level IV cohort to have studios in one location.</b>	Studio space for Level IV students is assessed annually based on the size of the cohort. Our priority is to keep the cohort together in one space whenever possible.	faculty teaching Level IV critique classes	immediate and ongoing
<b>Address the high teaching and administrative load currently place on one of the permanent faculty.</b>	The hands-on nature of an art program involving materials, processes, health and safety and time- intensive contact can create heavy teaching and administrative pressures. This is particularly evident with the Permanent Teaching Track appointment in Studio Art and is magnified in a program with only a handful of tenured faculty. The Director is currently working with the Teaching Track faculty member to explore reduced teaching (18 units)	Director of SOTA with Briana Palmer (supported by studio colleagues)	Reduced load of 18 units secured for 2017/18
<b>University should provide matching funds for student fundraising for SUMMA</b>	We will ask the director to consider a request to the Dean for matching funds.	Judy Major-Girardin	if feasible, to be implemented for Summa Exhibition scheduled for spring 2019

### **Dean's Response, Faculty of Humanities:**

The Dean thanks the Review team, the Director of SOTA and the faculty members in the Studio Art program for their thorough and constructive approach to the review.

The review team clearly identify the core strengths of this program and recognize its great value to students, the Faculty, university and community. The Dean noted that he appreciated in particular that they point to the way in which this program has created a distinct place for itself, by focusing on sustainable art practices, and by sustaining student access to the foundry.

The Dean supports the attached response of the School of the Arts and faculty members in the program, and will continue to work to strengthen this program, and to extend some of its benefits to students beyond the program.

### **Quality Assurance Committee Recommendation**

**McMaster's Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) reviewed the above documentation and the committee recommends that the program should follow the regular course of action with an 18-month progress report and a subsequent full external cyclical review to be conducted no later than 8 years after the start of the last review.**