

DATE: October 30, 2020

FROM: Dr. Christine Ramsay, Associate Dean Grad and Research, MAP
Rae Staseson, Dean, MAP

TO: Council Committee on Research, University of Regina

RE: External Review of the Interdisciplinary Grad Programs, MAP
Discussion with Council Committee on Research, November 5, 2020

On July 22, 2020, the MAP Dean's Executive met with the IDS Grad Committee, and all interested MAP Faculty, to discuss the "External Review of the Faculty of Media, Art, and Performance, Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs," which was co-authored by the IDS Grad Unit Review Team, and dated June 19, 2020. The meeting was intended to provide an open forum for responses to the report and identify next steps. Following this, and in consultation with the IDS Grad Committee, the Associate Dean Grad and Research (ADGR) has established a prioritized list of ten action items. Some of these items are in progress and will be accomplished in the short term (approximately one year); others will take mid- to long-term planning (approximately two to three years).

Note: The "Action" items below are variously linked to the nine relevant points in the three themes—shared understanding of interdisciplinarity; program review; governance review—outlined in Appendix A: Summary of Recommendations of the "External Review" (p. 13).

A) Short-term Action Items (12-16 months):

• **Correction to a statistical error.**

It was discovered by the incoming ADGR, in examining the External Review, that the IDS Self-Study Report erroneously identified a success rate in the IDS programs of 23%. The programs' success rate is actually 75%, confirmed by the ADGR with Keith Fortowsky (Director, Institutional Research and Data Governance Officer) on July 15, 2020. Unfortunately, this erroneously coloured the Unit Review Team's assessment, since they observed that these statistics "indicate problems with the degrees as they stand," whereas a 75% completion rate obviously indicates robust programs. Also, it is important to note that the IDS programs carry out formalized annual reviews of all students' progress, of which, given the comments in recommendation #5 regarding strategies for degree completion, the Unit Review Team was unaware.

ACTION: Correct the record to reflect a 75% completion rate in the IDS Grad programs.
Timeline: Fall 2020.
Summary of Recommendations #5

- **Revisit and reduce the number of courses in the PhD in order to reflect best practices in course standards and timelines to completion in PhDs across the University of Regina and in interdisciplinary programs across Canada.**

Students working at the advanced doctoral level will benefit from the reduction of excessive required elective courses (a residue of the old Special Case PhD requirements) and the increase of required research credit hours. For current students, it will reduce the timeline to completion, from 6 years to 4 years. For prospective students, it will be a more attractive and competitive scenario for undertaking their doctoral research. Finally, it will obviate the need for delivering an excessive number of Directed Readings by supervisors, or by other faculty members, in a small faculty.

ACTION: Passed IDS Grad Committee on September 15 and MAP Grad Committee on September 30, and will be presented at FGSR Committee on November 12.

Timeline: This program change should take effect in Spring 2021.

Summary of Recommendations #2

- **Revisit and consider reducing the number of courses in the MFA, as well as institute single-supervision as an option in addition to co-supervision, in parallel with the MA.**

The IDS Grad Committee struck a sub-committee on this issue, and a position paper was presented at the meeting of October 13, 2020, and accepted. The Faculty have unanimously determined that the MFA should remain at 42 credits (reflecting best practices in similar terminal degrees across Canada and parity with other MFA's in MAP). The question of single supervision was unanimously accepted (reflecting the ability and desire of area faculty to lead interdisciplinary studies supervisions individually, in parallel with the MA, where viable for the student and project).

ACTION: Single supervision of MFA's will be standard as an option, in addition to co-supervision. Students may enter the MFA program with a single supervisor, and if co-supervision is in order for the project, the co-supervisor will either be established immediately, or by the end of the first semester.

Timeline: The standard of single supervision will take effect for all students entering the program in Fall 2021.

Summary of Recommendations #2, #6

- **Consider aligning the degree names across the IDS Grad programs.**

The IDS Grad Committee discussed the issue on October 13, 2020. With the introduction of the Interdisciplinary PhD in Media and Artistic Research in 2018, the names of the Master's degrees require updating to reflect the MAP IDS Grad programs' stated interdisciplinary focus on media and artistic research. The name changes will: 1) Align the degrees as part of the MAP stream of graduate programs in interdisciplinarity in media and artistic research; b) Create continuity between the Master's and PhD, in order to recruit our Master's graduates

and have them move seamlessly into the PhD, and to recruit new students into the flow of the MAP interdisciplinary brand; and c) Avoid the current confusion due to inconsistent branding.

ACTION: The following name changes will be moved at the IDS Grad Committee meeting of November 17, 2020. If passed, they will be presented at MAP Grad Committee on December 4, 2020, and MAP Faculty Council on December 9, 2020 for ratification and, if successful, will be presented at the next available meeting of the FGSR Committee.

Timeline: The name changes would be effective in Winter 2022.

Summary of Recommendations #3

Current degrees:

Interdisciplinary PhD in Media and Artistic Research

MA in Interdisciplinary Studies

MFA in Interdisciplinary Studies

Name changes:

Interdisciplinary MA in Media and Artistic Research

Interdisciplinary MFA in Media and Artistic Research

• **Enhance the way interdisciplinarity is conceived, defined, and taught across the IDS Grad programs.**

The IDS Grad Committee discussed the question of the interdisciplinary enterprise (including pedagogy and governance) on September 15 and the Dean joined the discussion at the meeting of October 13, 2020. It was decided that this item is a complex one that will require many months of thinking and development (see Mid-term Action Items, below).

As a first step, it was unanimously decided to begin with pedagogy, by instituting a required 2-3 week unit on interdisciplinary theory and methods in FA 800 and FA 803, the core theory and methods courses that are taught in Fall and Winter term, respectively. Beginning in Fall 2021 this component would be mandatory to the courses, with a roster of key readings, which will be provided to instructors, but open to the interpretation of the instructor in terms of how and where the unit of readings is built into the course.

ACTION: At the IDS Grad Committee meeting of September 15, a subcommittee has been tasked with designing a draft set of interdisciplinary readings for these courses. The readings will be approved at the meeting of November 17, and circulated with the annual call for interest for teaching the core courses, on January 15.

Timeline: The readings will be in place for FA 800 in Fall, 2021 and for FA 803 in Winter 2022.

Summary of Recommendations #6

- **Enhance transparency and equity of planning for teaching of MAP Grad core courses (FA 800, FA 803, FA 804, FILM 804, FA 810 [SS offering])**

ACTION: At the IDS Grad Committee meeting of September 15, a MAP Grad 5-Year Teaching Scenario was formalized by the ADGR. A call for interest in teaching core MAP courses will be circulated to the MAP Faculty on January 15 of each year, for a deadline of March 1. Planning is now finalized through 2023. Planning through 2025 should be finalized by mid-March, 2021.

Timeline: The MAP Grad 5-Year Teaching Scenario is now a public document appended to committee meetings: IDS Grad Committee; MAP Grad Committee; MAP Faculty Council, effective Fall 2020.

Summary of Recommendations #4, #8

- **Consider aligning the course names with the MAP brand across the IDS Grad programs.**

The Faculty of Fine Arts changed its name to the Faculty of MAP in 2014-2015. In 2019 the IDS Undergrad programs changed their course designations to MAP; however, the graduate courses remain with the “FA” designation, and it is time for the IDS Grad programs to regularize the courses in alignment with the MAP brand, the degree names, and the undergrad offerings.

ACTION: Change the names of all MAP grad courses from the “FA” to “MAP” designation.

Timeline: The course name changes will be undertaken in Fall 2020, and brought into effect in Fall 2021.

Summary of Recommendations #3, #6

- **Revitalize the MAP Grad Course Policy and Procedures document.**

The ADGR has created a consolidated MAP Grad Course Policy and Procedures document that will be available on the MAP Intranet site and updated on an ongoing basis.

Timeline: The MAP Grad Course Policy and Procedures document has been updated to reflect current practices and includes the MAP Grad 5-Year Teaching Scenario, effective Fall 2020.

Summary of Recommendations #4, #7

B) Mid-term Action Items (24-36 months):

- **Review the formula for crediting teaching at the grad level in MAP.**

The IDS Grad Committee discussed the issue on October 13, 2020. The current MAP formula for credit is based in: 1) Credit as load for teaching any of the five MAP core courses: FA 800, FA 803, FA 804, FILM 804, FA 810 (Spring-Summer); 2) Credit as load for

teaching any of the Film or Visual Arts Group Studio courses; and 3) Credit for teaching 45 credit hours (including core courses, Group Studio and Directed Readings), in the form of one undergraduate course release, which was felt to be inadequate compensation by a majority of the committee. It was recommended by the Dean that the issue be sorted out in each area, and conceived as a system that includes both grad and undergrad teaching assignments together.

ACTION: The Dean will bring the MAP formula for credit for graduate teaching to the MAP Faculty Council meeting on November 4 for open discussion. The IDS Grad Committee could eventually be tasked with revising the MAP formula.

Timeline: The revisions to the formula for crediting grad teaching in MAP will require several months of planning, preparation and implementation, with a ballpark projection of 2022-2023.

Summary of Recommendations #4, #8

- **Enhance the way interdisciplinarity is structured and governed throughout the grad and undergrad programs in MAP, with a view to stabilizing the area as a faculty-wide enterprise.**

Several issues currently prevent movement on this issue in the short-term. The Associate Dean Interdisciplinary and Special Projects (ADISP) position is now vacant as of September, 2020, so there is an administrative gap until it can be decided how/when this position should be filled. In addition, CTech also has an open position, and the area/interdisciplinary focus of this position (depending on the pool of applicants), will affect structuring and governance decisions. Finally, the scheduled IDS Undergrad Unit Review, which was cancelled in March, 2020, due to Covid, and was being led by the former ADISP, is now on hold until the Unit Review can be rescheduled and leadership determined.

ACTION: Discussions on interdisciplinary structure and governance in MAP will be postponed until after the IDS Grad Unit Review is complete, and the ADISP and CTech positions resolved.

Timeline: 2022-2023

Summary of Recommendations #2, #6, #7, #9