

December 9, 2022

Council Committee on Academic Mission

University of Regina

Re: Department of Visual Arts Response to CCM – 18 Month Follow up Report

The Visual Arts Department has been invigorated by the external review process. The External Review Committee reflected to us our familiar strengths but also surprising blind spots and challenges. While we have been preoccupied with adapting to, and then transitioning from, pandemic conditions, and coping with budget restraints, we are improving our curriculum in response to the Committee's recommendations.

Our previous report covered our response and resolution of numerous suggestions from the Committee (the inclusion of territorial acknowledgements, scholarships, sustainability, etc.). This report focuses on the outstanding recommendations.

Recommendation 1: That a new art historian be hired.

Comments: The Visual Arts Department is in full agreement. With only two art historians, Art History is maintaining but finds growth a challenge. The vacant Art History position belonged to Luther College. They do not plan to rehire. First Nations University has long wanted an art historian. We support their interest but no concrete plans are forthcoming. In the meantime, as suggested in the last report, we are hiring sessionals to increase our offerings. This term we hired two new local instructors and will engage three more new Art History sessionals next term. We plan to boost student numbers in at least one of these courses so they can be offered through CCE.

Recommendation 2: That Visual Arts offer certificates in Art History, or certificates or degrees/joint degrees in Indigenous Art History at the University of Regina, or a joint degree in Indigenous Studio and Art History with FNU.

Comments: We are currently restructuring the art history program. More than a decade ago, recognizing that we lacked the capacity to offer a comprehensive program, we chose to concentrate on "cultures of display." With further faculty reduction, we have decided to deepen that focus to a curatorial studies program that emphasizes practical experiential learning projects. This term, we tested two student-led curatorial projects in partnership with the Archer Library & Archives collections. We will extend this design with other galleries and museums.

We have strong relationships with the Mackenzie Art Gallery, the Dunlop Art Gallery, and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum. These connections include curatorial projects and student internships. We are strengthening these partnerships and boosting our programming by hiring their curators as sessionals. In Winter 2023, Tak Pham (MacKenzie Art Gallery), Thomas Johnsson (Dunlop), and Julia Krueger (Saskatchewan Arts Board) will teach Art History courses

for us for the first time. John Hampton, Timothy Long, and Tak Pham (MacKenzie Art Gallery) all have adjunct professor status and could lead classes in the future.

Proposed Art History program additions include a post-baccalaureate certificate. We run a very successful post-baccalaureate certificate in Studio. Three recent graduates went on to do MFAs with us. We are exploring a certificate in Curatorial Studies. We are also looking at options for micro-credentials.

We have good relations with First Nations University. Their students take our courses and ours take theirs. Indigenous art history courses are mandatory in most of our programs. We are currently in talks with FNUC to increase cross-listed courses and explore the possibility of joint programs.

Recommendation 3: That the University retrofit an existing building or build a purpose-built professional Class-A facility university museum.

Comments:

As mentioned in our last report, even a modest campus gallery would be a boon for faculty and students. We would be able to host travelling exhibitions and artists; develop exhibitions and special projects; provide more space for student exhibitions and for our curatorial courses. While it exceeds the capacity of the Visual Arts Dept., we are very interested in the possibility.

The current gallery, the Fifth Parallel, is student-run. While we have excellent relations, it is autonomous. Until recently, graduate students wishing to mount their MFA exhibitions there had to apply in the regular proposal cycles, deadlines that were too close to the proposed exhibition date and acceptance was not guaranteed. The Gallery has now guarantees four MFA exhibitions at fixed times each year. This has greatly reduced student and faculty stress.

A patron has come forward with a generous donation to improve the lighting, sound, and other infrastructure in the Fifth Parallel Gallery. This has encouraged us to work on packages to attract other donor support: for the photography darkroom, Art for Lunch, etc.

The President is in the early stages of developing a display space at the entrance of the Ad Hum building for student art. Visual Arts is looking forward to partnering on this project.

Recommendation 4: That the University allow the department to levy course material fees.

Comments: A policy change has recently made this easier and we are working on a new program that would provide an art supplies bank for Foundation students for a small course fee. Students taking introductory classes spend \$150-\$275 per course on art supplies. Most purchases are not used up in the class. This is not a problem for students continuing in studio classes. But for those who do not, there is considerable waste. The cost of these materials can be prohibitive and discourage students from taking our courses. In addition, students often chose inferior

quality or are running out mid-class to get supplies. If they are in a night class, they cannot access the Art Store during class time.

We will create a basic art materials bank for ART 220 (Introduction to Two-dimensional Design), 221 (Introduction to Three-dimensional Design), 230 (Introduction to Drawing), and 240 (Introduction to Painting). For example, ART 240 would have a common set of brushes, paint, gesso, palettes, spray varnish, etc. Instead of paying \$275 dollars for that class's art supplies, individual students might only pay a \$75-\$100 course fee. Having a common bank of basic art supplies would greatly reduce stress: a predictable fee, quality materials, no shopping or running to the Art Store in the middle of class, less waste.

Recommendation 5: That Visual Arts build and equip a darkroom.

Comments: Visual Arts is committed to building a photography darkroom. We have the black and white equipment, a full-time faculty member qualified to run this space, and are slowly building the capital required to develop the room. The Dean initiated a conversation with Donor Relations to kick start this project and the VA Dept. Head followed up and is working on a tiered giving strategy.

Recommendation 6: That the department invite a Visiting Critic for each MFA student whose work is aligned with the student's research or bring in more working professional artists or curators.

Comments: As mentioned above, we have increased our engagement with local curators. In addition to hiring three local curators to teach art history classes next term for the first time, we have also hired another curator (Sande Moore, Art Gallery of Regina) to teach our graduate seminar course. Moore and three other curators also conducted critiques with our MFA students several times each over the past three years. Visiting artists who come to offer Art for Lunch talks often stay a few extra hours to do studio visits with MFA and senior undergrad students. We would like to establish more robust and stable funding for this keystone program. We have engaged Indigenous Knowledge-Keepers and Elders to assist MFA students on occasion. We will continue to build and maintain these relationships.

As our summer studio rentals return to normal, we will continue and increase our visiting artist summer program. This coming year, for example, we are hosting a national watercolour symposium and wildlife artist.

Recommendation 7: That MFA exhibitions be photo-documented and archived.

Comments: As part of their Thesis package, MFA students are responsible for documenting their work. Professional documentation and archiving of their exhibition is an idea we support but lack the funds to achieve. We are working on a policy addressing the documenting of exhibition and the archiving of that material as well as exhibition support papers. That plan will

include MFA Grads uploading their materials to the UofR OurSpace: <https://ourspace.uregina.ca/> or with MAP's recently announced partnership in this regard with the Archer Library.

A few other developments worthy of note by not expressly called for by the Committee. Visual Arts offers online versions of several Studio Foundation courses. We have received development grants to produce two more, ART 100 and ARTH 100, which begin delivery in 2023. For several years, we have offered very successful Ceramics courses in the spring semester. Attendees are mostly community members. These classes are taught at the 200 level but many students are interested in higher levels. We are planning a Ceramics Summer Institute that would include Intro and Intermediate classes, visiting artists, and workshops.

I look forward to meeting with the CCM on behalf of the Music Department and welcome feedback on our progress and goals towards the recommendations laid out in the External Review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Garneau". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

David Garneau
Head, Visual Arts

CCAM Response Template

Response and Implementation

On receipt of the report the members of the unit will meet in committee for discussion. The Dean and the unit head will then meet with CCAM to review the report. Based on the report, comments received from CCAM and any University planning and priority documents, the unit will then prepare a response. The response will address the issues raised and clearly outline priorities and future directions and initiatives for the unit over the next three to five years. As such it should be prepared in close partnership with the Dean. The response will be transmitted to CCAM which may comment on it. The response and any comments from CCAM will inform the faculty's long-term planning. The Provost may also provide a separate formal written response to the report from the unit.

18-Month and 5-Year Follow-ups

CCAM will initiate 18-month and 5-year follow-ups with the unit. The unit will be invited to prepare and submit a brief report in which members of the unit comment on the outcomes of the review and initiatives undertaken in response to it and respond to any comments from CCAM. In particular they will be asked to describe initiatives and plans for the coming three to five years until the next review takes place. The follow-up will be reported in CCAM's report to Executive of Council and the report and any comments from CCAM will be made available on request.

CCAM would also like the unit to respond to the following final questions in their five-year report: Was the academic unit review beneficial to your unit? What was the main outcome of your unit's academic unit review?

Please note that you may add more rows to the table if needed.

	Unit Response to AUR recommendations	18 Month follow-up	Year 5 and final follow-up	Goals & Initiatives for the next three to five years until the next AUR
External Review Report				
Recommendation 1	That a new art historian be hired.	We are hiring local curators as art history sessionals to maintain and increase our offerings.	Restructure Art History to focus on curatorial studies and projects with local art galleries.	Hire one or more art historians.
Recommendation 2	That Visual Arts offer certificates in Art History, or certificates or degrees/joint degrees in Indigenous Art History at the University of Regina, or a joint degree in Indigenous	Exploring a post-baccalaureate certificate, a certificate in curatorial studies, and micro-creditentials.	Have a post-baccalaureate certificate, a certificate in curatorial studies, and micro-creditentials.	Have a post-baccalaureate certificate, a certificate in curatorial studies, and micro-creditentials.

	Studio and Art History with FNU.			
Recommendation 3	That the University retrofit an existing building or build a purpose-built professional Class-A facility university museum.	Explore campus art display options beyond the Fifth Parallel Gallery.	Have campus display spaces beyond the Fifth Parallel Gallery.	Have significant campus display spaces beyond the Fifth Parallel Gallery.
Recommendation 4	That the University allow the department to levy course material fees.	A policy change has made this easier. We are working on a new program that would provide an art supplies bank for Foundation students for a small course fee.	Have basic art supplies available to all are students for a small materials fee.	Have basic art supplies available to all are students for a small materials fee.
Recommendation 5	That Visual Arts build and equip a darkroom.	Visual Arts is committed to building a photography darkroom.	Continued fund-raising for the darkroom.	Have a robust photograph darkroom.
Recommendation 6	That the department invite a Visiting Critic for each MFA student whose work is aligned with the student's research or bring in more working professional artists or curators.	We have increased or engagement with local curators.	Have stable funding for Art for Lunch so we can bring in more professional guests to support MFA and undergraduate students.	Have stable and robust funding for Art for Lunch and visiting artists, art historians, and critics.
Recommendation 7	That MFA exhibitions be photo-documented and archived.	Develop policy addressing the archiving of MFA exhibitions and exhibition support papers.	Have a stable archive of MFA exhibition documentation and exhibition support papers.	Have a stable archive of MFA exhibition documentation and exhibition support papers.

CCAM Response Template