

Program Performance Review: Culmination Meeting Memo Department of Art

The 2013-2014 Program Performance Review (PPR) process for Department of Art concluded with a culmination meeting on April 3, 2015. The Department of Art submitted disciplinary reaccreditation documents for the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) in lieu of the required PPR materials.

As of April 2015, the Department of Art remains accredited by the NASAD, and the reaccreditation status is "Deferred". The department is working to address eight space/facility issues raised by NASAD, and is planning to submit an update report by October 2015 (in preparation for NASAD's meeting in November 2015). Some of the progress includes the space analysis conducted by external consultants, promising progress toward finding more space nearby as student studios, and a plan for facility renovation and space expansion for AY16-17. The department, however, indicated that the other issues (e.g. curriculum related) raised by NASAD will need more time to address. The department is requested to work with the Accreditation Liaison Officer (Dr. Nwosu) and the Office of Academic Programs to prepare the update report to NASAD.

During the meeting, the program was commended for the significant progress made since the last PPR, which includes:

1. Overall strong student achievement. The department's effort to engage students through High Impact Practices (HIPs) is especially impressive.
2. Excellent faculty who genuinely care about the students.
3. Students have a favorable opinion of the programs and of the faculty. This was made evident by the large number of students who participated in the reaccreditation visit, and the overwhelmingly positive feedback they provided.
4. Newly instituted efficient class scheduling and room utilization to reduce time to degree.
5. Full-time and part-time faculty remain active in scholarly and professional activity. The excellent work by the faculty will be showcased in campus-wide events.
6. Strengthened advising process.
7. Grant Central Arts Center as an asset to the department, serving both teaching and community outreach functions.
8. Success in helping students land coveted internships. These are great opportunity for students to gain real world experience, potentially leading to employment.
9. New chair appears to be a strong and articulate advocate. This is particularly important, as the department faces many challenges. The university is committed to support the chair.
10. As pointed out by the external reviewers, many of the accomplishments above are rare for large, commuter campus like CSUF.

The major recommendations and concerns raised through the reaccreditation process were discussed. Suggestions on how to address them were provided:

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1. Significantly lower financial support for the department, in comparison to similar units at comparable institutions:
 - The funding allocation for the college currently is based on enrollment, and funding allocation within the college is determined by the Dean. It is recommended that the department works with the Dean to reconsider funding allocation within the college. It is suggested that a panel should be established to review and recommend formula for funding, and conversations should take place in order to make sound funding decisions.
 - The funding structure is moving toward the Outcomes-Based Funding Model. The department is thus being encouraged to move the focus from enrollment to student success indicators (e.g. timely graduation).

2. Failure to comply with standards regarding health and safety, and with standards regarding the distribution of safety training and information:
 - Health and safety issues involve both facilities and staffing. There is a lack of appropriate facility improvement; Nor are there enough staff to work on these issues. The current one staff position is far from adequate, and the responsibilities had to be shared by faculty (which was perceived as burdensome).
 - As hiring decisions are made internally, the department is recommended to speak to the Dean regarding adding a 1/2-time position on health and safety. It is also recommended to work with the Office of Environment and Health to take advantage of their student interns.
 - The department is encouraged to work with Lisa Kopecky regarding facility needs.

3. Failure to comply with standards regarding ventilation, lighting, and facility improvements (electrical and plumbing systems, ceramic studios, painting studios, replacement chairs, studio lighting, “facilities are suffering from varying degrees of delayed maintenance,” “Painting inside and out is needed,” “delayed replacement of equipment”):
 - Several of these issues seem to be minor repairs; The department is recommended to prioritize and take care of them as soon as possible.
 - A plan is being established to complete the bigger repairs for AY16-17. The department is encouraged to include details of the plan in its update report to NASAD.

4. Failure to comply with standards regarding number and distribution of faculty and teaching assistants:
 - The department was cited for having a class of 102 students without student assistants. The college is urged to address this issue at the Dean’s discretion, to either reduce class size or provide teaching assistants.

5. Failure to comply with standards requiring the number of credits of graduate student-only courses in the MFA.
 - The MFA program current is 2 courses short to meet the required percentage of graduate student-only courses. The department has made progress in addressing this issue by implementing creative solutions (e.g. team teaching; interdisciplinary courses) to meet the standard. These new solutions are expected to be in place in Fall 2015.

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6. Failure to comply with standards regarding size and scope of certain degree programs.
 - NASAD is concerned with the small number of majors several of the degree programs produce. The department is recommended to think about strategies (e.g. consolidate programs) to address this issue.
 - It seems that the majors with low number of majors are the ones that have the most facility needs. The department is encouraged to work with Lisa Kopecky to prioritize and complete the necessary repairs/updates.
 - The updated facilities could also help increase capacity for GE courses.
 - To boost enrollment, the department should rethink and reevaluate enrollment management and admission efforts to strengthen enrollment. It is also recommended to work with the outreach efforts at the university to reach high school students, to capitalize on its existing on-campus high school program, and to work with the Office of Graduate Studies to attract more graduate applicants.
 - It is also suggested that the college could explore the option of offering graduate assistantship to help attract grad applicants.

7. Mission of the Grand Central Arts Center became muddled, and quality of program coordination is low:
 - The department is aware of this issue, and the Dean's Office has had several conversations with new director to address it. More frequent communication and attendance to the Chairs' meeting by the director are likely to improve the effectiveness of the Grant Central Arts Center.

8. Investigate the possibility of reducing the number of GE requirement, and thereby reducing the total number of credits required for the BFA and time to completion:
 - Compared to comparable institutions, CSUF BFA students have more GE requirements. NASAD recommended reducing the GE requirement by 12 credits, or implementing "double-counting" policy, to reduce the final degree requirement to 120;
 - This recommendation may be challenging for CSUF, as the CSU CO's EO1100 requires no less than 48 GE credits. A reduction by 12 would violate this requirement. The department is recommended to explain the local constraints, and ask for an exemption in the update to NASAD.
 - Double-counting is a more promising strategy, and it is a broader university issue. The conversation has begun on campus to address this issue.

9. Need for two additional tenure-track positions:
 - The hiring request should be submitted by the Dean to the Provost's Office.