

AY20 Expedited Program Review – Optional Program Response to the Dean’s Findings Form

Date: 2/28/2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: Garry Mealor, Associate Professor

Cc: John Petraitis, Interim Dean, CAS
Garry Mealor, Chair & Associate Professor, ANC
Herminia Din, Professor, ANC
Steve Godfrey, Professor, ANC

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review: Optional Program Response to Dean’s Recommendation

Program/s in this review: Art BFA

Program response to dean’s findings:

The Art Department wishes to thank the members of the EPR committee for their work in reviewing BFA. We are looking forward to submitting our progress report in Spring 2021. We humbly request that despite the dire budget situation, efforts be made to support the highest quality of education we can offer our students.

In addition to providing general education instruction, we fulfill all five of UAA’s Core themes and embody 9 of 11 high impact teaching practices established by the Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP) sponsored by the Association of American Colleges and Universities.

As stated in the review, BFA has stringent admission requirements to ensure a standard of excellence. It should be noted that most Pre-BFA students who are not selected pursue a BA and are still part of the department.

As stated in the review, incoming students declare Art as their major behind only Biology and Psychology as the majors most in demand by high school students. We feel one of the reasons for this demand is our National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) accreditation, which seeks optimum learning conditions for art students and develops the strength and quality of art and design in higher education. Institutional Membership in NASAD is a strategic choice to join work in fulfilling these important responsibilities for the fields of art and design and to gain local support from a community of peers dedicated to service. NASAD represents higher education institutions that teach art and design in the most broadly accepted evaluation procedure in higher education as a whole. Its work in accreditation and beyond is a reference point for others in the field, and is especially valuable for decision makers without an art and/or design background.

CAS’s lack of support for NASAD accreditation because it is optional has created widespread resentment in our department. NASAD’s stringent review of curriculum, facilities, faculty qualifications, and student research required a significant amount of faculty time and effort. Our motivation, like the other 363 Art Departments with accreditation is to ensure legitimacy. UAA should be invested in a department that strives for the highest standards. We have had accreditation for over twenty years. It would be a mistake to move this department backwards.

Yes, NASAD accreditation is a point of pride for the Art Department and we believed CAS and UAA felt the same way. When students graduate from UAA with a degree in Art, they know their work and achievements are valued nationally. Students and faculty are proud of this aspect of our department.