



Date: May 21, 2014

From: James Houpis, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs
Susan Opp, AVP, Academic Programs and Graduate Studies

To: Kathleen Rountree, Dean, CLASS
Thomas Hird, Chair, Department of Theatre and Dance
Chris Chamberlain, Chair, CAPR

Subject: MOU Meeting – Department of Theatre and Dance

On May 13, 2014, Kathleen Rountree (Dean, College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences), Jiansheng Guo (Associate Dean, College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences), Thomas Hird (Chair, Department of Theatre and Dance), Chris Chamberlain (Chair, CAPR), Susan Opp (AVP, Academic Programs), and James Houpis (Provost and VP, Academic Affairs) met to discuss the 5-Year Program Review for the B.A. degree in Theatre Arts and to develop an MOU as required by CAPR.

The Department of Theatre and Dance completed their self-study and external review in 2011-12, but CAPR did not complete their report for submission to the Senate until June 2013, and the Senate did not pass the document until December 2013. Therefore, it is important to note that while the Department completed their review of the B.A. in Theatre Arts on time, the information contained in the review is now more than two years old. The MOU meeting served as an excellent opportunity to learn about the modifications that have occurred to the program subsequent to the 5-year program review and the changes to program assessment that have occurred.

CAPR recommended continuation of the B.A. in Theatre Arts in 2013, but they did so with recommendations for modifications to include a curriculum map showing alignment of courses with program learning outcomes and ILOs, assessment of one program outcomes per year, and evidence of closing the loop (using assessment results for program improvements). In addition, CAPR recommended assessment of the viability of options within the B.A. in light of limited resources.

In the MOU meeting, Chair Hird described the decision by the faculty to reduce the original 16-20 program learning outcomes to a smaller number of more focused, manageable learning outcomes. The program has created a curriculum map aligned to the five new program learning outcomes, has revised their portfolio assessment process, and has been actively involved in the CLASS assessment task force activities. The department now designates one faculty member per year to lead the assessment of one program learning outcome per year with the result being full involvement and training of all faculty over a period of time. In addition, they have annual retreats dedicated to using assessment results to modify learning experiences in the program. The department is commended for its impressive progress and

commitment to assessment of student learning. The department has also modified the Theatre Arts curriculum to eliminate three options and, very recently, to modify a fourth option, resulting in a more cohesive and focused curriculum.

The theatre building was also discussed; the structure is old, and although incremental improvements to lighting and sound have been made recently, more improvements are needed.

The results of the MOU meeting are as follows:

1. The department will continue to work on assessment of their program learning outcomes and to use these results to close the loop to improve student learning.
2. The department will continue to explore the potential use of A2E2 and other funds for equipment and capital improvements to the theatre structure.

The Department of Theatre and Dance is commended for the work of its faculty in support of engaged student learning and success and for its outstanding performance programming for the University and surrounding community. CAPR is also thanked for the informative report.

cc: Mitch Watnik
Sophie Rollins