



December 17, 2014

To: Robert Stacey, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Elizabeth Cooper, Divisional Dean of Arts, College of Arts and Sciences

From: David L. Eaton
Vice Provost and Dean

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "David L. Eaton".

Rebecca Aanerud
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Planning

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Re: School of Drama 2013-2014 Review

This memorandum outlines the recommendations from the review of the School of Drama's BA in Drama, MFA in Acting/PATP (Professional Actor Training Program), MFA in Design, MFA in Directing, and the Ph.D. in the History/Theory of Drama. Detailed comments can be found in the documents that were a part of the following formal review proceedings:

- Charge meeting between review committee, School, and administrators (March 23, 2014)
- School's self-study (March 28, 2014)
- Site visit (April 20-May 1, 2014)
- Review committee report (June 2, 2014)
- GPSS report (June 17, 2014)
- School's response to the review committee report (June 30, 2014)
- Graduate School Council consideration of review (October 16, 2014)

The review committee consisted of:

Paul S. Atkins, Associate Professor and Associate Chair, UW Department of Asian Languages and Literature (Committee Chair)

Jennifer Bean, Associate Professor and Associate Chair, UW Department of Comparative Literature; Director, Cinema and Media Studies Program

Franklin J. Hildy, Professor and Head, School of Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

R. Terrell Finney, Jr., Professor and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs; Director of Graduate Studies, College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

A member of the Graduate School Council presented findings and recommendations to the full Council at its meeting on October 16, 2014. Specific comments and recommendations regarding the School of Drama and its degree programs include the following.

The review committee noted that Professor Sarah Nash Gates has led the School of Drama the past twenty years as Executive Director and commended her leadership during a difficult economic

period and the success of her development efforts. The School's review occurred simultaneously with the hiring and arrival of the new Executive Director, Todd London.

Program Strengths

- Overall, the review committee was impressed by the commitment of the School's faculty and staff regarding the quality of experience they provide students in the undergraduate and graduate programs.
- The School's "culture of fund-raising" is pervasive among faculty and students which lends to an entrepreneurial spirit that has sustained them through challenging financial times.
- Faculty are aware of the national challenges facing arts and humanities academic programs, the issues within the School, and are these addressing issues and challenges with insight, creativity and determination.

Challenges & Risks

- To sustain six productions a year in addition to running BA, MFA, and PhD programs is a tall order and faculty are stretched thin, resulting occasionally in limited curricular offerings, and making it nearly impossible for anyone to request leave without causing substantial disruption.
- The design section has been a problem: it is especially underfunded, as well as poorly positioned to recruit good students. The annual slate of shows has also tended to be announced on the late side, leaving design under pressure to work too quickly.
- The School has a lack of space, and the facilities in Hutchinson Hall are often marginal-to-inadequate or, in the case of a sound studio, nonexistent. The building is not ADA compliant.

Areas of Disagreement

- The review committee questioned whether the School has the staff and other resources necessary to support a permanent concentration in musical theatre, whereas the School considers the program to be a way to attract students and build its profile.

Graduate School Council Recommendations

- The Council concurred with the review committee's recommendation for continuing status of the undergraduate and graduate degree programs offered by the School of Drama. They recommended that the next review be conducted in ten years, specifically the 2023-2024 academic year.

The Council also made the following recommendations.

- Create an Associate Director position to assist with the transition of the new Executive Director.
- Hire a new faculty member with a specialty in non-Western drama to teach in the PhD program.

We concur with the Council's comments and recommendations.

c: Todd London, Professor and Executive Director, School of Drama
 Patricia Moy, Associate Vice Provost for Academic and Student Affairs,
 Office of the Provost
 Ed Taylor, Vice Provost and Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs
 Drama Review Committee Members
 Graduate School Council
 Augustine McCaffery, Senior Academic Program Specialist, The Graduate School