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To: Phyllis Wise, Provost  
Ana Mari Cauce, Executive Vice Provost  
Office of the Provost, Box 351237

From: Suzanne Ortega, Vice Provost and Dean  
Melissa Austin, Associate Dean for Academic Programs

RE: Review of the Museology Program

At its meeting of February 1, 2007, the Graduate School Council met with members of the team that reviewed the Museology Program (Bradley S. Portin, Associate Professor, Educational Leadership & Policy Studies (Committee Chair) and Joel T. Walker, Associate Professor, History; Susan P. Casteras, Professor, Art History was not able to attend), and with Wilson O'Donnell, Interim Director of the Museology Program, Maya Procel, Program Administrator, and Judy Howard, Divisional Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences.

An M.A. degree and a Graduate Certificate are currently offered by the Museology Program. The Program began in 1972, and became an interdisciplinary program in the Graduate School in 1994. The Graduate Certificate in Museology was approved in 1997. In 2003 the Master's program became fee-based. This was the first comprehensive review of the Museology Program since it moved to the Graduate School. The current review committee, including its external members (Kenneth Hafertepe, Professor and Director of Academic Programs and Graduate Studies, Department of Museum Studies, Baylor University; Carlo M. Lamagna, Clinical Associate Professor, Visual Arts Administration M.A. Program, Department of Art and Art Professions, Steinhardt School of Education, New York University) held its formal on-site review on November 20-21, 2006.

The Review Committee chair reported that the committee found a successful program with several strengths, including the 162 program graduates who are making valuable contributions in museums both locally and regionally. The program itself is highly interdisciplinary and compelling in its reach across campus.

Key areas of concern cited by the review committee were student advising, faculty structure, organizational structure of the program, and program location. Student advising needs attention because of the increase in student numbers during the last few years since the program became fee-based. This increase impacts the director's workload and access to the UW interdisciplinary faculty group. The faculty structure of the program operates with two groups; one consists of interdisciplinary faculty from academic positions at the UW, and the other includes the auxiliary faculty who teach most of the courses and are made up of professionals from outside academia. The review committee recommended establishing a steering committee to support the program's core faculty and program planning. Recommendations on the program's organizational structure and location were guided by 3 goals: 1) preserving the program's interdisciplinarity, 2) strengthening relationships with the Burke and Henry Art museums; and 3) completing the search for a permanent director while also considering a possible second faculty position. (Please see the Review Committee report for detailed recommendations.)

Graduate School Associate Dean Melissa Austin noted that there is an urgency to complete the search for a permanent director for the program because the search last year was unsuccessful. The program operation is complex in that it is an interdisciplinary program in the Graduate School, but is funded by the Office of Educational Outreach (UWEO). She noted that a series of meetings with the Provost, the Graduate School, the College of Arts & Sciences, and UWEO resulted in a solution for the program's structure. Specifically, the plan is to recruit for two director positions, one professional and the other academic, due to the unique character of this program. The College of Arts & Sciences Divisional Dean added that the earlier director search was unsuccessful, at least in part, due to the candidates' confusion over the program's organizational structure, including to whom the director reports. She underscored the urgency to move forward with a new director search, but also acknowledged the success and the significant contributions of the current interim director.

The Interim Director provided comments on how the program combines theory and practice with important interdisciplinary skills, and that this has been successful in its approach to student training. The current review provided the program with an opportunity to evaluate its structure and resources, and the program welcomed this review process to help it achieve its goals. The program is in agreement with all of the recommendations made by the review committee. The suggested administrative structure and interdisciplinary faculty group are important solutions to the long-term survival of the program. With these changes in place, the program will be poised to move forward and fulfill its ongoing mission.

During the Council discussion, the President of GPSS expressed concern that student access and funding for diversity needs to be addressed. The interim director noted that prior to 2004 the program had access to GOMAP resources in the Graduate School, but as an UWEO program, it does not have access to these funds. It was suggested that some program income could be funneled to diversity outreach. It was emphasized that most courses are taught by the auxiliary faculty who are museum professionals, not UW faculty. However, the master's student thesis requirement necessitates UW faculty involvement, and more faculty are sorely needed. It is hoped that the new structure, including an academic director, will provide the leadership to create interest for other faculty to become more involved. Disciplines that might be involved include Anthropology, the I-School, additional units in Arts & Sciences, and Education. It was

also noted that Museology students are the last to be admitted to courses outside the Museology program because of being UWEO students, and thus access to outside courses needs to be improved. Regarding enrollment, the interim director views an opportunity for growth with international program initiatives and with tribal, ethnic, and rural programs. It was noted that the 50 students currently enrolled occupy the same physical space as when the program had only 16 students, demonstrating the need for additional space for the program.

The Graduate School Council recommended that the Museology Program be reviewed again in 10 years, during the 2016-20017 academic year. We concur with these recommendations.

cc: David P. Szatmary, Vice Provost, UW Educational Outreach  
Ron Irving, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
Judith Howard, Divisional Dean of Social Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences  
Wilson E. O'Donnell, Director, Interdisciplinary Museology Program  
David Canfield-Budde, Academic Program Specialist, The Graduate School  
Kimberly Friese, President, Graduate and Professional Student Senate  
Museology Program Review Committee  
Graduate School Council