

June 30, 2014

Dr. David L. Eaton, Vice Provost and Dean
Dr. Rebecca Aanerud, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Planning
Box 353770
Seattle, WA 98195

RE: Response to School of Drama Reviewers' Report

Dear Dr. David L. Eaton and Dr. Rebecca Aanerud,

The School of Drama is deeply appreciative of the thoughtful, careful work from the Review Committee. It is very helpful to have a forward looking report, and we are sure it will be most useful to the new Executive Director as well as continuing faculty and staff. We are very pleased to be recommended for continuing status and a next review in 2024.

We think it is appropriate to wait until Dr. London has arrived and taken up the reins before submitting detailed responses to the recommendations and ideas brought forth in the report. However, in the meantime there are a few corrections to be made and thoughts to share. We will follow the numbering established in the Reviewers' Report.

2. Musical Theater Program

The new Musical Theatre Program brings potential for enhancements for current programs as well as potential for detraction. A correction to note is that the School does not plan to attempt to produce a musical in addition to a six show season. For the foreseeable future a musical will be part of six productions produced by the School of Drama each year.

3. CineMedia Program

Several programs within the School of Drama benefited from the CineMedia Program, and we look forward to being part of the ongoing conversations about applied film making/digital media production within the College of Arts & Sciences. In the meantime, for 2014/15 the necessary resources are in place to continue the important course work and necessary technical support.

4. PhD Line

We were pleased to see the recommendation for a new line in non-western theatre in the PhD Program.

We would like to correct the placement numbers for our PhD graduates. Since 2010 we have graduated 12 PhDs. Eight of those are employed in academic institutions, including Tufts University, University of Pittsburgh, University of North Carolina, and the University of Nevada Las Vegas. One has a post-doc, one is production manager for the National Theatre of Taiwan, and two are out of the field [currently].

We feel the 83% placement rate is a more accurate figure than 50% as cited in the report.

5. Creditize Student Activity

School of Drama students at all levels have academic credit available to them for work in School of Drama productions. For decades variable credit via several course options has been available to actors, crew members, designers, directors, dramaturges, assistants, etc. Many Drama students choose not to register for credit in order to reduce total the number of credits taken and/or not exceed eighteen credits per quarter, and thereby incurring additional fees associated with exceeding eighteen credits.

It occurs to me that one of the first things I did as the incoming Executive Director in 1994 was respond to the 1994 Program Review. It seems a fitting bookend to have this response be one of my last official acts as the outgoing Executive Director.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Nash Gates". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Sarah Nash Gates, Professor
Executive Director