

Visual Arts Programme Review Action Plan

23 December 03

1. The Head of Fine Arts will ensure that the Visual Arts Programme develops a frame work, based upon its collegially derived philosophy, within which changes to the curriculum can be rationalized and articulated.
2. The Chair of Visual Arts, in consultation with the Head of Fine Arts, will ensure that the business of art is integrated in an appropriate way within the existing curriculum.
3. The Head will ensure that members of the Programme will work as a unit to plan policy, staffing and offerings of off-campus experiences for students. These experiences have always been regarded as vital to the Programme as is evidenced by the fact that they are supported to the cost of about \$10,000 per year. In recent years, this support has been channelled into underwriting the cost of the art history courses delivered during the spring at the Harlow Campus in England. Whether this is the most effective use of these resources is for the Programme Unit to decide. The capacity of the College to increase support beyond this amount will have to be determined in relation to overall priorities.
4. The Principal has recommended to the Vice-President (Academic) that a tenure-track position be created to compensate for what now appears to be the permanent loss of a faculty member on long-term disability.
5. Since the position of Gallery Registrar has never been established, it is incorrect to say that it has been left vacant. Having said that, no doubt a case can be made for such a position. The Head of Fine Arts will ensure that the Programme develops a priority list of potential appointments towards a time when funding becomes available to support them, and that the position of Gallery Registrar is given due consideration in its compilation.
6. A line item for visiting artists has been added to the budget of the Programme.
7. A request for a second art historian position will have to be considered in the normal College-wide process for establishing new positions.
8. The need to re-examine the ventilation system in the various studios, with particular attention to the print and sculpture areas, has been brought to the attention of the Director of Administration and Finance. An assessment will be provided to the Principal by 15 February 2004.
9. The possible reconfiguration of the Fine Arts Lecture Theatre and the improvement of air quality in the room has been brought to the attention of the Director of Administration and Finance with a view to determining the cost of these changes.

10. Recommendations for the upgrading of the physical plant will be made by the Programme and considered for implementation depending upon urgency, priority and cost.
11. The Visual Arts Programme was one of the first two degree programmes established at Grenfell College and therefore it is a very visible part of our public profile. The success of the Programme has meant that Visual Arts no longer has much room to accept additional students. Recently, therefore, our recruitment strategy has attempted to re-balance our image so that Grenfell is known as more than "the fine arts college." Nevertheless, although we must give balanced attention to all our programmes and recruit into areas of greatest capacity, the fine arts, along with the environment and our commitment to personalized and interactive learning, are destined to remain major themes in the promotion of our institution. Within the context of all our competing demands, the appropriate resources will be made available to ensure that the promotion of the Visual Arts Programme – provincially, nationally and internationally – remains a priority.
12. The Head of Fine Arts will ensure that the method of evaluation is spelled out for each course in accordance with Academic Regulation 6.2. in the University Calendar, recognising that to allow students to acquire the necessary art-making skills, assignments may sometimes need to be devised and scheduled in response to needs identified during the term.
13. The unavailability of a sufficient range of electives seems to be exacerbated by the scheduling of studio courses. The Head of Fine Arts will consult with the Registrar to determine to what extent greater flexibility can be created in the schedule so that students will have a greater choice of elective courses.
14. The University has made it clear in negotiations with government that it is insisting on adequate involvement of the Visual Arts Programme in the planning and oversight of activities in the Exhibition Centre.
15. An increase in the student assistant budget for the art gallery will be favourably and seriously considered.