



Senate Committee on University Planning

Academic Unit Review Summary: DRAMA PROGRAM

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| Site Visit | November 20-21, 2016 |
| Informal Response to Planning | February 8, 2017 |
| Formal Response to Planning | April 5, 2017 |
| Implementation Update | 2018 |
| Midterm Review | 2020-21 |

Review Team Members:

- Dr. Robin Whittaker, Drama, St. Thomas University (Chair of Review Team)
- Dr. Barry Freeman, Theatre and Performance Studies, University of Toronto
- Dr. David Fleming, Physics, Mount Allison University

Recommendations of the Academic Unit Review

1. Renegotiate relations between the Drama Studies Program and Fine Arts regarding the latter's shop space in the shared Purdy Crawford Centre for the Arts in order to improve the safety of students and to improve the Drama Studies Program's ability to build the sets and props necessary for a season of more than five productions.
2. Invite one or two professional theatre companies to perform in the Motyer-Fancy theatre during the academic year.
3. Formalize language and parameters of critical feedback for productions and for DRAM 4011 with a view to improving the quality and quantity of critical feedback between faculty/staff mentors and individual students; between faculty/staff mentors and student casts, crews, and creative teams; and between students and their peers. Moreover, it is advisable that a second set of ears (akin to a "second reader" for theses) be included in the DRAM 4011 mentorship process, one who may be in another Unit (where applicable), whom a student can talk to about their work.
4. Extend the staff Resident Designer contract from 7.5 months to 9 months.
5. Mandate and track student attendance at master-classes, workshops, and other theatre practice events.
6. Offer more experiential learning field trips to see theatre outside of Sackville.
7. Spread out final projects between the fall and winter terms.

8. Review avenues through which first-year students are made aware of the Drama Studies Program and made aware of show auditions.
9. Circulate amended production budgets in a scheduled and timely manner.
10. Increase the Drama Studies Program's operating budget by 10-15% to account for the increase in material costs over the years.
11. The review team's *strongest recommendation* is to reduce the number of in-house theatre productions in a season by one or two and to replace it/these with one or two visiting professional productions curated by the Drama Studies Group.