



## Senate Committee on University Planning

### Academic Review Summary: Drama & Screen Studies Program

<b>Site Visit</b>	<b>October 30 &amp; 31, 2025</b>
<b>Formal Response</b>	<b>April 14, 2026</b>
<b>Implementation Update</b>	<b>Fall 2027</b>
<b>Midterm Review</b>	<b>Winter 2029</b>

#### Review Team Members:

- Dr. Natalie Meisner, Professor, Department of English, Mount Royal University
- Professor Goran Stanivukovic, Professor of Early Modern English Literature, Saint Mary's University
- Dr. Fabrizio Antonelli, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Mount Allison University

**Note:** The following recommendations are taken mostly verbatim from the external review. For context they should be read in conjunction with the department's formal response.

#### Recommendations of the Academic Program Review

1. Increase the Drama and Screen Studies budget, which has not risen in 20 years. The current annual budget of \$17,000 is insufficient for a successful and resource-intensive program. We recommend increasing the annual budget to \$25,000 minimum.
2. Increase advancement and fundraising initiatives specifically for the Motyer-Fancy Theatre.
3. Where possible, consider contributing to Extended Learning through short courses and professional development offerings.
4. We recommend adjusting the accommodation process for Drama and Screen Studies students, whose practical learning needs may require different forms of accommodation.
5. Add one tenure-track (TT) position in Screen Studies.
6. Add one TT position in Drama (preferably Applied Theatre).
7. Add one Technical Coordinator (nine-month appointment) to support both Drama and Screen Studies.
8. Extend the current Resident Designer and Production Manager positions from nine-

month to twelve-month appointments.

9. Begin the process of transforming the Program into a Department of Drama and Screen Studies.
10. Elevate the Screen Studies Minor to a Major, modeled on the Drama Major, with the option to retain the Minor.
11. Offer the Production course annually rather than every other year, as currently scheduled.
12. Continue developing the film program, particularly in the direction of film production.
13. While recognizing that Crake Foundation funding levels are determined externally, we note that funding has not changed for many years. The Program, together with the University, should raise this issue with the Foundation. Low compensation presents a significant challenge for this otherwise prestigious position and may hinder the recruitment of top candidates.
14. The Program must continue to attract, support, and fully integrate the McCain Postdoctoral Fellow (2+2 teaching contract) as an academic drama appointment, as this role enhances both the pedagogical and scholarly profile of the Program.