



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
The Graduate School
G-1 Communications
Box 353770
Seattle, Washington 98195-3770

Telephone: (206)543-5900

Fax: (206)685-3234

June 8, 2006

Revised

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 Dance Program

At its meeting of May 4, 2006, the Graduate School Council met with members of the team that reviewed the Dance Program (Kenneth C. Clatterbaugh, Professor and Chair, Department of Philosophy; Ellen J. Garvens, Associate Professor, School of Art; Thomas L. Harper, Associate Professor, School of Music), Ellen M. Kaisse (Divisional Dean, Arts and Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences), and Elizabeth Cooper (Associate Professor and Director, Dance Program). This program was last reviewed in the 1995-1996 academic year, and the continuing status of the degree programs (Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree, with a major and minor in dance, and the Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in dance was affirmed at that time. This review committee, including its outside members, held its formal on-site review on November 18 and 19, 2005.

The review committee reported the Dance Program has a hardworking faculty that is committed to both the graduate and undergraduate programs. The committee recognized the faculty's enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication, and also noted that faculty's engagement with students was of the highest quality. Elizabeth Cooper, the current Director of the Program, has been a dynamic leader who has greatly strengthened the undergraduate program, introduced diversity into the curriculum and the faculty, integrated writing in more courses, and has made every effort to create a program at the graduate and undergraduate levels which will serve as a strong foundation for the future.

The committee found the undergraduate programs in Dance to be of uniformly high quality, a quality maintained through the great dedication and hard work of its teachers, whether they were graduate student, faculty member, or artist in residence. The Dance Program seems to be a model of what the University yet hopes to achieve in terms of making the undergraduate experience a quality experience that derives from careful

attention to pedagogical practice and faculty mentoring. The Dance Program Review Committee agreed that overall the MFA program is a good program, although they did have two major concerns. As described in detail in their report, the first area of concern is the need to strengthen the overall quality of the program and to improve the competences of those who graduate, and the second is the financial impact of the Chamber Dance Company (CDC) program on other aspects of the Dance Program. In her response to the Review Committee report, the Director noted that the Dance faculty has already held a series of four retreats to discuss the overall quality and efficacy of the MFA program, and have developed specific plans for curriculum revisions that will be implemented during summer term, 2007.

The Dance Program Review Committee unanimously made the following recommendations to address the immediate needs of the program:

1. There should be permanent funding for two lecturer positions. One lecturer position has been funded on a temporary three-year basis, with a combination of support from the Office of Minority Affairs, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of Communication, and the Dance Program itself. The other lecturer position, originally funded by OUE, was cut for this year.
2. A part time undergraduate advisor should be assigned to the program in order to free the administrator for her duties as administrator.
3. Auditions for performances by undergraduates to determine which of them get to dance in faculty and graduate performances should be instituted. The Program Director reported that auditions for the Dance Majors Concert and the MFA Concert occur on an annual basis, and that the program has a plan to institute regular auditions for the Faculty Dance Concert as well.
4. There should be some expansion of undergraduate opportunities to perform, perhaps through a repertory type class. The Program Director reported that a repertory class was added for the curriculum in 2003, but was not offered in 2006 due to a lack of funding. It will be offered again in 2007.
5. The program needs to address the MFA curriculum to determine if there is a way to find more time for graduate students to pursue research projects and to be introduced to or work with dance technology.
6. The ownership of the Program's resources needs to be addressed and settled.
7. There should be a decision concerning the space requirements of the program, perhaps by making the offices in Cunningham Hall permanently available to the program.

During the discussion, the Director reported the review had been immensely productive, had made the faculty interactions better, and had improved communication within the unit. She also acknowledged that the issue of distributing resources in light of the historic role and expense of CDC to the Program remains to be resolved. She will recommend that the faculty make a collective decision for the future, rather than operate from historical accident. For example, the Program will have an annual production meeting to plan how to use ticket revenues. The Council also noted student comments indicated a desire for exposure to non-western dance. The Director reported that a studio component with a new lecture class in world dance and culture is planned. She expressed concern about the level of the Program's current support staff and the impact on their work loads with curriculum revisions.

For more detailed information on the review of this program, please see the Review Committee's written report, submitted on December 2005, and the response from the Director, submitted in April, 2006.

Finally, the review committee recommended continuing status for the Dance BA and MFA degree programs, with the next review to be conducted in the 2015-2016 academic year. The Graduate School concurs with this recommendation.

- c: David C. Hodge, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
- Christine Ingebritsen, Acting Dean and Vice Provost,
Office of Undergraduate Education
- Janice DeCosmo, Acting Associate Dean, Office of Undergraduate Education
- Ellen M. Kaisse, Divisional Dean, Arts and Humanities,
College of Arts and Sciences
- Elizabeth Cooper, Associate Professor and Director, Dance Program
- Adam Grupp, President, Graduate and Professional Student Senate
- Dance Program Review Committee
- Graduate School Council
- Augustine McCaffery, Senior Academic Program Specialist, The Graduate School