



6 December 2018

William Hales, Head
Department of Theatre
University of Regina

Dear Bill,

Following my 9 July response to the report of the Academic Unit Review team, I am pleased to provide this brief rejoinder to the Department of Theatre's 30 October reaction to the AUR report. First, though, thanks to you and your colleagues in Theatre for your forward-looking reaction to a report that, I agree, is indeed "very positive" (1) and a source of pride for the Department.

The following elements in Theatre's 30 October document are especially noteworthy to me:

- Commitment to thorough curricular restructuring and streamlining, including the elimination of outdated courses (1). This will be key to future successes. Without singling out Theatre, I would point out generally that the curricular complexity of our undergraduate course offerings (which now occupy more than 400 closely printed pages in the *Undergraduate Calendar*) is itself a barrier to student success. It is also a growing administrative burden because of increased registrarial work and ever-rising loads on our student advisors, who work to guide students through an unnecessarily daunting maze of programs and curricula.
- A cohort-based approach to the reintroduced BFA in Theatre (1), which will benefit not only the career prospects of students and allow them to "sustain themselves in a competitive environment," but is very likely as well to increase year-to-year retention rates in the BFA.
- With regard to staffing (2, 5), authorization to proceed with a replacement for the recently vacated professorial position in Theatre has already been given to the Faculty of Media, Art, and Performance. The conversion of a term position to tenure-track status would require MAP prioritization of this request as part of its budget submission, then similar prioritization of the request by the Council Committee on Budget as it ranks requests for new permanent positions from across all Faculties and academic units, and finally – needless to say – adequate base budget funding to allow the position to be converted to continuing status should the request be ranked highly. As you know, these are competitive processes, and they take place in our current environment of very constrained government funding.
- The TYA program (4) concept is exciting, not least as a key new conduit into the Theatre program for Saskatchewan young people, including potential Indigenous students as well as the cohort of students from new Canadian families who will begin to arrive on campus in 2022-23.

- Continued enhancement of your laudable ties (4) with Social Work, KHS, and First Nations University of Canada. These ties have the potential to benefit increasing numbers of students each year.
- Concurrence with your reaction (4,5) to the reviewers' recommendation regarding use of facilities for teaching: I think the Department's position is reasonable.

I hope you find these brief comments on your response helpful, and am happy to discuss them with you at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Chase', written in a cursive style.

Thomas Chase
Provost

Copies: Dr V Timmons, President and Vice-Chancellor
Dr D Malloy, Vice-President (Research)
Professor R Staseson, Dean of Media, Art, and Performance
Mr J D'Arcy, Registrar
Council Committee on Academic Mission