

February 26, 2024

Professor Mike Rollo, Head
Department of Film Department
Faculty of Media, Art, and Performance

Dear Professor Rollo:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with CCAM on January 8, 2024 and providing an update on the work being done in response to the Department's most recent Academic Unit Review. We appreciate that you and your faculty are actively working on many of the recommendations from the external review report and developing strategies to increase the profile of your department nationally and internationally.

The external report highlighted the critical state of the faculty complement within the Department and raised concerns about the sustainability of the BA and BFA programs if upcoming retirements are not filled in a timely manner. While CCAM cannot advocate for provision of more resources to any particular academic unit, we encourage the Department Head to continue to work with the Dean to develop a plan for faculty complement. CCAM also suggests that the faculty complement plan respond to the external reviewers' related recommendations around EDI and curricula. We hope that moving forward, the implementation of this bundle of recommendations will help inform the department's identity in a creative way.

A number of other recommendations were aimed at raising the profile of the Department (internal and external to the university), enhancing recruitment initiatives, promoting the Living Skies Student Film Festival and integrating the festival into the curriculum. There is considerable overlap between many of these recommendations and the committee encourages the department to work closely with other units, such as the University's Recruitment Office, in order to ensure that the Department's outreach initiatives are effective and that efforts are not being duplicated. It bears repeating that high schools without advanced media programs also need to be factored into ongoing recruitment strategies. CCAM members were quite excited about the potential opportunities that could arise from an interdisciplinary certificate/diploma program in "events management". The committee encourages the Department to pursue this initiative in collaboration or consultation with both internal and external stakeholders.

On behalf of CCAM, we thank you again for meeting with us. In a few years, the committee looks forward to hearing back from the Department with a final report on the successful implementation of the recommendations from this academic unit review.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require any assistance.

Sincerely,



Wes Pearce
Chair, CCAM



Isabelle Dostaler
Provost, Vice-President (Academic)

Cc: Dr. Nilgün Önder, AVP (Academic)
Dr. David Dick, Dean of Media, Arts and Performance