

## **Film Studies. BA and MA Cyclical Program Review – FIRST REPORT ON ACTION PLAN.**

**December 2017.**

Since we submitted our Action Plan to the Office of the Vice-Provost in October 2016, Film Studies has been hard at work implementing the large majority of the recommendations offered by the External Reviewers in their Report dated February 2, 2016. As the table below indicates, we have completed – or are in the process of completing – most of the items listed in our Action Plan. The items that are not completed (or near completion) are mainly recommendations that were either rejected by Film Studies or SSAC (#13 and #18) or whose realization is beyond our control, requiring commitments from other units at Carleton (#6c, #12a, #14 and #15). Of the few recommendations that remain “on-going”, item #1 on Learning Outcomes Assessment deserves further clarification.

In our initial Response to the External Reviewers, submitted to the Office of the Vice-Provost in June 2016, we presented a schedule for Learning Outcomes Assessment which proposed that the first three LOs would be evaluated in 2016-17. Following the Response, and in preparation for the Action Plan, we had several robust conversations about the process and it became apparent that we would not be in a position to undertake the assessment according to our initial schedule. As indicated in the Action Plan, we decided to set aside a significant portion of our Spring Retreat (which took place on April 24, 2017) to revisit our program-level teaching objectives so as to ensure the coherence of our degrees, and develop a framework to enable the assessment of learning outcomes. At the Retreat, we quickly reached consensus on two issues: 1) before rethinking our teaching objectives, it is necessary to have a better sense of what students currently learn in our program; and 2) our Learning Outcomes Assessment plan needs to be *holistic* rather than seeking to evaluate LOs discretely. In discussion on the latter, two types of assignments that are already in place at the 4000 level emerged as useful first steps in the direction of a holistic approach to Learning Outcomes Assessment.

First, as part of the 4<sup>th</sup>-year Practicum, students are asked to write a reflection piece on the relationship between what they have learned in the classroom during their program and their practical experience working in the Ottawa film community. We agreed that a review of these assignments each term would be very useful in seeking to ascertain the degree to which students have achieved the program learning outcomes and how they are able to transfer these academic skills to an experiential learning context. Second, as part of the 4000-level core course, FILM 4001, students discuss the distinctiveness of film studies as an academic discipline grounded in the humanities, comparing and contrasting film studies to cognate programs such as screen studies and media studies. This oral assignment could easily be modified to include a written component that could then be reviewed by Film Studies faculty with a view to further determining the achievement of Learning Outcomes.

Thus, the first stage of our Learning Outcomes Assessment plan is to review samples from these two assignments in December 2017 or January 2018 with a view to determining students’ ability to synthesize what they have learned and apply this knowledge in non-academic settings. In light of the results of this first stage of assessment, we will determine whether it is necessary to review the Program Teaching Objectives and Learning Outcomes, as well as any other aspect of our curriculum. Once this process has been successfully tested at the undergraduate level, we will develop a similar process at the Master’s level.

## UPDATE ON ACTION PLAN – TABULAR FORM

| Recommendation   | Comments   | Responsible Individuals  | Timeline   |
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| Recommendation #1<br><br>Assessment of Learning Outcomes                   | At the April 2017 Retreat we agreed to adopt a holistic approach to Learning Outcomes Assessment. Two kinds of reflective assignments produced at the 4000-level will be appraised with a view to determining students' ability to synthesize their learning. In light of the results of this first stage of assessment, we will review the Program Teaching Objectives and Learning Outcomes. We will subsequently develop a similar process at the Master's level. | Every available faculty member.  | On-going   |
| Recommendation #2<br><br>Reduce credit value of First-Year Courses         | Eliminate FILM 1000 [1.0] and create FILM 1101 [0.5].<br>Cease offering FYSM 1510 [1.0] and create FILM 1120 [0.5]   | Coordinator of undergraduate program.  | Completed  |
| Recommendation #3<br><br>Removing pre-requisites for second- year courses. | Remove the first-year core-course requirement for all non-core 2000-level courses. Keep first-year pre-requisite for second-year core courses.   | Coordinator of undergraduate program.  | Completed  |
| Recommendation #4<br><br>Renaming/Renumbering Courses                      | We undertook a review of our offerings over the past several years to identify the most common topics taught under the rubric of "special topic" courses, and subsequently created new courses/titles for the most frequent topics.<br>We also created a new course on "The Video Game"  | Coordinator of undergraduate program with support from other faculty members | Completed in the summer 2017, for changes to take effect in 2018-2019. |
| Recommendation #5<br><br>Review "student experience" with the practicum    | A "practicum committee" reviewed the practicum option both at the graduate and undergraduate levels and developed strategies to enhance the collective experience of the practicum.  | Practicum coordinator oversees the new practices                             | Completed  |
| Recommendation #6<br><br>Production Courses                                | a) created practice courses to be offered in 2017-18.<br><br>b) works continues on a proposal for the creation of a "Concentration in Film Practice"   | a) Assistant director (Film)<br><br>b) all faculty members in Film Studies   | a) Completed<br><br>b) 2017-18   |

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|   | c) raising funds to create an artist-in-residence program,<br><br>d) collaborated with English Department to create a cross-listed course in screenwriting.  | c) all faculty members in Film<br><br>d) undergraduate coordinator and counterpart in English | c) On-going<br><br>d) Completed |
| <b>Recommendation #7</b><br><br>Applying for grants to provide RA funds for grad students | See #16  | See #16   | See #16                         |
| <b>Recommendation #8</b><br><br>Review internship options at the grad level               | See #5   | See #5  | See #5                          |
| <b>Recommendation #9</b><br><br>Handbook for graduate students                            | Created an online graduate student handbook with clear information about deadlines, contacts, and expectations.  | Graduate supervisor   | Completed                       |
| <b>Recommendation #10</b><br><br>Divide FILM 5000   | Split the current full-credit core course into two 0.5 core courses.   | Graduate Supervisor   | Completed                       |
| <b>Recommendation #11</b><br><br>Supervision Equity                                       | Supervisory responsibilities are now determined at the time of approval of thesis/MRP proposals in November and December of each year. Under the new regime there will be fewer supervisions and equity will be easier to achieve. | All faculty members   | Completed                       |
| <b>Recommendation #12</b><br><br>International Student                                    | a) we will seek in vain to secure additional funding for international students.<br><br>b) created of a Post-Bac. Dip. to facilitate transition  | a)graduate supervisor and dean of FGPA<br><br>b) all faculty members                          | a) On-going<br><br>b) Completed |
| <b>Recommendation #13</b><br><br>Curriculum submission                                    | No action will be taken on this recommendation   | N/A   | N/A                             |
| <b>Recommendation #14</b><br><br>Designated classroom                                     | We continue to negotiate with Jamie Carmichael, Manager, Scheduling & Exam Services to designate certain classrooms as being for Film Studies primarily.   | Director of SSAC, Assistant Director (Film) and Jamie Carmichael                              | On-going                        |
| <b>Recommendation #15</b><br><br>Improved Facilities                                      | We will continue to lobby for improved facilities  | Director of SSAC, Assistant Director (Film) and the Powers-that-Be                            | On-going                        |

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| Recommendation #16<br>Faculty mentoring     | In 2017, SSAC established a School-wide mentoring process whereby colleagues who have enjoyed success with grants help other colleagues with their applications                  | SSAC grant mentors       | Completed |
| Recommendation #17<br>Future Hire           | We determined that for our next hire we would focus on securing a spousal appointment for Laura Horak's partner, Gunnar Iversen, a specialist in Nordic cinema and sound in film | all faculty members      | Completed |
| Recommendation #18<br>Involvement in BGIInS | SSAC determined that, at this point, the School will <u>not</u> pursue a specialty in BGIInS   | All SSAC faculty members | Completed |