

SYDNEY COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

REPORT ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PHASE ONE

Recommendation 1	The Review Team recommends that the College develops relevant generic attributes and communicates these to the students.
Action taken by the Faculty	The SCA Teaching and Learning Committee is developing a new set of generic attributes at present. A final version of these will be submitted to the SCA Board and then to the University Teaching and Learning Committee in due course.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	When the new generic attributes are finalised they will be disseminated widely to students and staff using various mechanisms. They will be included in all course material, incorporated in all subjects and courses outlines and published on the SCA website.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	While no evaluation of the action is possible at this time SCA will include a series of questions in the next student survey in 2004.

Recommendation 2	The Review Team recommends that the College complies with the Academic Board code of practice for Postgraduate supervision and provide each postgraduate research student with both a supervisor and an associate supervisor. Associate supervisors may be obtained from another studio within the College or from other faculties within the University, for example the Faculty of Arts.
Action taken by the Faculty	The Sub-Dean for Postgraduate Studies has circulated to all academic staff the Academic Board code of practice for Postgraduate supervision. The Sub-Dean chaired a meeting of all potential supervisors and associate supervisors and from 2004, all research candidates will have both a supervisor and associate supervisor appointed.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	As above.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	A review of this process by the Sub-Dean for Postgraduate Studies.

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Recommendation 3	The Review Team recommends that the College looks at the quality of its internal communication processes, particularly in relation to administration.
Action taken by the Faculty	In 2002 under the direction of the Acting Dean, Professor Margaret Harris a review was conducted of Student Administration. This review resulted in a complete restructuring of the area and the appointment of several new staff members. At present, a further review is in progress of all communications within SCA by the Acting Faculty Manager and the aim of this review is to improve communication processes across the college. Regular staff meetings have been implemented, as has staff training.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	The recommendations of the report will be submitted to the Faculty and the Dean's Advisory Committee for consideration and action.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	The Acting Faculty Manager will review the new processes in 2004.

Recommendation 4	The Review Team recommends that the College develop links with the Camperdown campus, for example the Faculty of Arts. This would provide more opportunities for students and avail them of the University of Sydney experience.
Action taken by the Faculty	Collaborations have commenced with the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Education and Social Work, with the first bearing fruit in 2004 in the form of a new postgraduate degree the Master of Contemporary Art for Educators (MCAE) and the Master of Film and Digital Image (MFDI) in 2005. The inclusion of formal electives in the SCA program and a more flexible credit system will over time encourage SCA students to enrol in subjects in other departments on the Camperdown campus and students from other campuses to study at SCA. The Faculty notes that it believes and always informs its students that SCA is a University of Sydney experience.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	The Faculty is continuing to develop joint programs and to promote the use of its electives to encourage cross campus study.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	Student surveys.

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Recommendation 5	The Review Team recommends that because of the isolation of international students from the resources of the main campus, the College should consider ways of putting resources, structure and processes in place on site to help these students.
Action taken by the Faculty	An academic responsible for international student liaison has been appointed to provide the development and sustaining of support initiatives for international students on the Rozelle campus .
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	SCA plans to further enhance this role in 2005 to include a comprehensive Faculty introduction and to survey students as to the scope of services required.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	Student surveys and focus groups.

Recommendation 6	The Review Team recommends that the College consider promotion of the College to the outside community, emphasising the brand name of the University and the intellectual rigour of the programs offered.
Action taken by the Faculty	SCA's new promotional material has been designed and launched. This includes a range of brochures about each degree that the college offers, and a completely new website. These initiatives will strengthen the college's image and University of Sydney brand. Further design and promotional work has been budgeted for 2004.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	SCA has appointed a full time marketing and communication manager to develop all of the external communications of the college. A budget has also been allocated for the development of the college's alumni database in conjunction with Alumni services in the Development Office.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	Surveying of first year students and students from other faculties enrolled in the new elective streams.

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Recommendation 7	The Review Team recommends that the development of the College Teaching and Learning Plan should be more collegial and collaborative. It also recommends that improved communication processes should be established to disseminate the plan across the Faculty, and ensure a degree of compliance.
Action taken by the Faculty	A new Teaching and Learning Plan to improve pedagogic strategies has been developed by the Faculty, and has been approved by the Teaching and Learning Committee, and will be presented to the SCA College Board. This document will then be forwarded to the Academic Board. The Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies will conduct a series of workshops with academic staff during 2004 to ensure compliance.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	This document will be included on the SCA website.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	Evaluation of teaching using student surveys and staff feedback from workshops.

Recommendation 8	The Review Team recommends that the College considers the introduction of a formalised process for the recognition of good teaching. It further recommends that staff should be encouraged to apply for University teaching excellence awards.
Action taken by the Faculty	A committee to develop a process for the recognition of good teaching has been established. This committee includes the Dean (Chair), Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, Sub-Dean for Postgraduate Studies and the Chair of the SCA Board. It is envisaged that an award will be in place for 2004. It should be noted that the Faculty proposed successfully one of its staff, Ms Anne Ferran for the Australian Council of University Art and Design Schools (ACUADS) Excellence in teaching awards (2003). ACUADS is the peak body for schools of art and design in Australia.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	To encourage the submission by academic staff to the SCA and University teaching awards.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	By the number of staff applying for the SCA award, the University award and the ACUADS award.

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Recommendation 9	The Review Team recommends that the College consider ways of improving the current heavy staff workload
Action taken by the Faculty	Action has been taken to reduce staff workloads, by the development of a draft workload model that allows for regular relief from teaching for administrative tasks. SSP places have also been increased to 4 from 2 in 2003. The Faculty points out that this is a difficult issue in times of reduced budget flexibility, and is focusing on increasing revenue to provide for lower teaching loads. The Faculty aims to reduce the load to 15 contact hours of teaching per week in the studios, with further reductions in concert with the budget.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	The Faculty should consider a small reduction in the teaching hours of the BVA to further reduce faculty wide teaching loads. Further development of the workload formula.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	

Recommendation 10	The Review Team recommends that the College investigate the continued viability of offering a double minor and look at replacing it with the proposed elective stream.
Action taken by the Faculty	In 2004, a new elective stream will be introduced.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	

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Recommendation 11	The Review Team recommends that the College considers the need for a more consistent message to be conveyed to casual staff regarding standards, policies and practices particularly as they relate to assessment. A more intensive orientation program for casual staff with better coordination between full-time staff, casual staff and students may help to improve this. It further recommends that there is a need for moderation and consistency across studios, and that the College should consider the development of grade descriptors.
Action taken by the Faculty	Implementation, at the beginning of 2004, of Faculty workshops conducted by the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and the Chair of the SCA Board for casual staff across all studio areas. Addressing assessment and a range of University policies. For junior casual staff a senior academic staff member will be appointed as a mentor.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	While grade descriptors are already in place, the Teaching and Learning Committee will review and expand upon them in 2004.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	N/A

Recommendation 12	The Review Team recommends that the College consider the use of Institute for Teaching and Learning workshops to help staff better understand the teaching research nexus
Action taken by the Faculty	A series of Faculty workshops have been conducted previously on the issue and during 2003, the Associate Dean for Research conducted a workshop so that staff better understand the relationship between the process that is already widely practiced in the Faculty - research led teaching. Three SCA staff are undertaking ITL programs. The Faculty has also taken part in the University wide Research Led Teaching forums to help our colleagues from other Faculties understand the nature of research led teaching in the visual arts. Several SCA academic staff are considered national leaders in the field of contemporary visual arts and are at the forefront of this nexus.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	A series of workshops conducted by the Associate Dean for Research.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	N/A

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Recommendation 13	The Review Team recommends that the College consider the isolation of postgraduate students and investigate ways of improving the situation. In particular, students need to be made aware of SUPRA.
Action taken by the Faculty	In 2003, a new Faculty research student's common room was established with a high level of facilities including several new eMacs, and it is already widely used by Postgraduate candidates.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	To invite the SUPRA President to the induction session at the beginning of the 2004 academic year. In the medium term, the Faculty is considering creating a graduate school that would house the majority of candidates in one building. This is a common practice in the best art schools in the USA.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	Student surveys.

Recommendation 14	The Review Team recommends that the College give consideration to the employment of postgraduate students in tutoring as a developmental and mentoring strategy.
Action taken by the Faculty	This strategy has been in place for more than a decade however due to budget constants there has been a reduction in the number of candidates employed. However, the college is presently considering strategies for the strengthening and expansion of the employment of postgraduate candidates.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	Postgraduate candidates will be employed in a tutoring role in the new electives, which will be offered in 2004.
Faculty's evaluation of the success of action taken	N/A