ANNUAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT REPORT – Department of Art – BA Art – 2017

Student Learning Outcomes (Same as BFA in Art)

1. Articulate and critically respond to both familiar and unfamiliar works of art through critical dialogue.
2. Understand the function of presentation and/or the exhibition process of personal works in public gallery or other cultural venues.
3. Demonstrate advanced technical, aesthetic and conceptual skills in their chosen area of specialization.
4. Communicate their ideas professionally and connect with their intended audience using visual, oral, and written skills.

Outcome Assessed: Outcome 2.

Method of Assessment: The method was the same as last year. Rationale is posted at the end of this report. Requested written responses to administration following an undergraduate Art student exhibition. The exhibit was the BFA candidates’ midway. The BFA coordinator, at the Chair’s request, sent an email to all faculty that attended
requesting their evaluation of the show and they could focus on any aspect of what they saw. They were to respond to the strengths and weaknesses of the show.

**Assessment Results:** The strength most commonly cited by the respondents was Outcome #3, our undergraduates are producing work that aptly demonstrates advanced technical, aesthetic and conceptual skill. The most commonly cited weakness was the lack of the importance of presentation and exhibition process in the gallery space, which indicates that Outcome #2 is not being met. Some faculty noted things such as the height of the displays on the walls to each artist’s work in relation to other in the space. Others noted the lack of awareness of the importance of the focus on the exhibition and presentation process of art work.

**Program Response:** Last year, this was the response: Currently there is only one gallery practices class and it is not required at all – it is listed as an elective. The department is under-going significant change in curriculum and administration. The Acting Chair (the administration of the department itself is in a state of flux) has recommended that Gallery practices, which is a course at the very heart of Outcome #2, be included as a program requirement in the reconsideration of the redevelopment of the plan of study for all Art undergraduates. If the inclusion of an entire class regarding exhibition and presentation does not help us adjust the total credits required, then we will certainly build in sections of all the foundations courses that insure proper techniques are being covered in all the benchmark classes.

I have spoken with the new coordinator of the Painting area and he has instituted a “pop-up” show in the syllabi for that area which will be a spot check and review of presentation and exhibition practices.

Building on that for the Fall 2018 school year, we will be offering three classes not usually offered in this area as it seems to be the appropriate response to the deficiencies noted by the faculty. In addition to Gallery Practices, we are offering Advanced Gallery Practices I and Advanced Gallery Practices II – and we have created an ‘X’ class called The Business of Art that will focus on personal presentation and public communication skills for the artists.