

TWO (2) YEAR POST CYCLICAL PROGRAM REVIEW FOLLOW-UP REPORT

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PROGRAM	IQAP REVIEW DATE	SENATE APPROVED
Fine and Performing Arts -Bachelor of Fine Arts -BA Major in Fine Arts -Minor in Studio Arts -Minor in Art History, Visual Studies -Minor in Film	January 10, 2019	September 13, 2019

PROGRESS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION	% COMPLETE	RESPONSIBLE MEMBER/UNIT	STATUS IF NOT COMPLETED, PLEASE PROVIDE PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE
#1 - Re-assess naming of Dept.	50%	FAPA Dept	Fall 2022
#2, 9 - Space planning incl. Monastery, Jane St., and Main Campus, as well as gallery	10%	Administration	
#3, 11 - Faculty renewal plan	0%	Administration	
#4, 6, 7, 10 - Curriculum development (FA students, non- FA students, international) disciplinary and non-disciplinary	100%	FAPA Dept	complete
#5 - Increase supplies	0%	Administration	
#8 - Web posting of FAPA products and assets	90%	FAPA Dept	September 2022

#1 Re-assess re-naming of the Department

A discussion of re-naming the department has been ongoing. As a department, there is consensus that “Fine and Performing Arts” does not accurately represent the current nature of our programs, as we do not offer degrees or minors in disciplines such as music and theatre. The current name, FAPA, reflects a time when Nipissing offered a minor in music. While discussions have been conducted, we have not yet achieved consensus on the name we would use to replace “Fine and Performing Arts”. At our most recent department meeting, members agreed to further reflect and conduct individual research on naming of departments with similar programs at other institutions, with the intent to achieve consensus when we regroup as a department in the fall. We expect to make a decision on this recommendation at our August/September department meeting and would file the appropriate motion (if re-naming) in the fall.

#2, 9 - Space planning incl. Monastery, Jane St., and Main Campus, as well as gallery

The external reviewers recommend the university “implement a five-year plan to resolve the issue of space through either: a renovation of Monastery Hall funded in part by the sale of the Jane Street building or a renovation of the Jane Street building. Such a plan is imperative for the health and safety of the students and faculty who learn and work in the spaces to which FAPA is assigned.” It’s worth noting that this recommendation echoes similar recommendations made by the external reviewers of our 2009 UPRAC review, which described our studio facilities as “meagre”.

Specifically, the space issues include, at Monastery Hall: very small studio spaces and lack of ventilation, and at the Jane St studio: several significant leaks in the roof (see attached photos, below), a lack of ventilation, and safety and access concerns due to its distance from main campus.

Our need for improved studio space was recognized by an anonymous donor on June 17th 2013 with the donation of the Jane Street building, which was recently appraised at \$1,000,000. Prior to the donation, the same donor pledged \$250,000 to support the creation of a Center for Fine Arts, although \$200,000 of that initial pledge was subsequently cancelled as a condition of accepting the Jane Steet building. In a follow up letter from the donor dated July 26th 2016, addressed to then President, Michael Degagne, the donor stated that they “expect all proceeds of [the] sale be allocated to the Department of Fine Arts...” The President’s response, dated August 24th 2016, confirmed that all financial proceeds will be fully applied as intended by the donor.

Between Fall of 2018 through to the summer of 2020, several meetings were held with the PVPAR, the Dean of Arts and Science, the Director of Facilities, the Director of Advancement and External Relations, and the Executive Assistant External Relationships and Strategic Initiatives (President’s Office) to discuss this matter. The consensus was that action must be taken to address our facilities and that a new building on Monastery Hall grounds was the preferred option. The last meeting of this group occurred in July of 2020.

Between December 2020 and January 2021, FAPA met with David Drenth, Director of Facilities, and Marcus Wheeler, Architect at Bertrand Wheeler Architecture Inc., to develop plans for the new building. The finalized plans were forwarded to the Dean of Arts and Science with a request to reconvene the group. Despite additional requests and several attempts and the support of the Dean, we have had little success moving forward with the project. We believe the responsibility to act on this recommendation now lies with senior administration.

We continue to stress the importance of this project. Not only will it address the long-standing space concerns identified by the reviewers, but it will also significantly improve our department’s ability to attract and retain students. Adequate facilities are important to prospective students who attend recruitment events. They also demonstrate the university’s commitment to support student success and play a vital role in the experience provided to students, which ultimately helps retain students.

We understand and appreciate the current financial situation of the university, which is why we are not requesting additional funding for this project. We simply ask that the university make better use of the donation it has already received to support a Center for Fine Arts, as intended by the donor.

#4, 6 7, 10 Curriculum Development

The external reviewers recommended revising our 1st-year studio courses to eliminate writing exercises and place a greater focus on making and learning basic foundation-level skills in art making through material processes and visual acumen. The second curriculum recommendation made by the external reviewers was to shift the 3rd-year curriculum to a more interdisciplinary format.

We recently addressed these curriculum recommendations in a series of revisions that have just been approved by Senate at their meeting on April 8, 2022, and will be implemented in the 2022-23 academic year. The revisions reduced the overall credit requirement for a BFA degree from 78 to 60, allowing for greater flexibility and choice to ease the progression of students who are enrolled in the concurrent education program, or student who declare a major later in their degree. One of the courses eliminated in this restructuring was FAVA 1027 Studio Art: Ideas and Practices. This 3-credit course included an emphasis on form and content and an introduction to contemporary art and theory. The reviewers' recommendation to focus on material-based hands-on learning in the first year will be implemented with the elimination of this course, by focusing on the remaining 1st-year studio course FAVA 1026 Studio Foundations and allow greater choice for 1st-year students to take specialized discipline specific 2nd-year courses.

The recent curriculum revisions also eliminated the requirement to take five 3-credit courses in specific disciplines: painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, and digital media. Instead, students in third year will be required to take FAVA 3336: Advanced 3D Studio and Expanded Media and FAVA 3236 Advanced 2D Studio. These courses are interdisciplinary and will bring third year students into a cohort while increasing enrolment in upper year FAVA courses.

#8 Web Posting

The Fine Arts webpages have been built up significantly since the Review in 2019. Of particular note is the "Get Involved" tab on the FAPA webpage, which showcases information about:

- the campus student-run Art Club (North Bay Art Student Collective)
- visiting artist talks
- Art Abroad course in Italy
- professional practices workshops
- student exhibitions
- gallery visits
- events such as the annual screenprinting party and print sale
- standard Nipissing info on NUSU, athletics, and student development

Images that depict the active community in the FAPA Department and document special experiences such as Art Abroad bolster our efforts in recruitment, as the website is often the first point of contact for prospective students. We have been diligent about documenting and archiving each student exhibition, and visitors to the website can click links to view a gallery of images documenting the Annual Juried Exhibition and BFA Grad exhibition. Buttons that link to news coverage of the student art club (NBASC), and to NBASC social media and contact information are also clearly located on the "Get Involved" page.

Further to the "Get Involved" section of the FAPA webpage, we have updated the faculty bios and links to faculty websites. Other sections of the FAPA webpage feature videos that highlight alumni accomplishments such as Geoff Mayne's "Portrait Project" and an interview with Holly Cunningham, Director of the Near North Mobile Media Lab, produced by the Ontario Arts Council. We are in the process of gathering current images of BFA program alumni who are working in the arts and culture sector to further enhance the "Your Future" section of the webpage and help prospective students envision the possible paths they might take following their degree at Nipissing.

#5 - Increase supplies

As a result of recent financial challenges in the wider university, the allotment for teaching-related supplies, studio tools and equipment in our department budget has been cut.

LIST OF ACTION ITEMS LEADING UP TO NEXT REVIEW

- reach consensus on whether to re-name the department and submit a motion should a change be required.
- complete website improvements and maintain active and current digital presence on Nipissing's site and through social media channels.

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS/NEXT STEPS – PLEASE ADD CONCLUDING SUMMARY REGARDING NEXT STEPS

The FAPA Department has been successful in addressing the action items that are within our control. While the most significant items, such as curriculum reform, are complete, any action items still in process (such as the re-naming of the department) will be completed in the Fall of 2022. The recommendations yet to be addressed include the implementation of a plan to resolve facilities issues through an addition/renovation of the Monastery funded by the sale of the Jane St. building. The department has been proactive in submitting a statement of case for this initiative and initiating meetings with administrators, the facilities staff, and a professional architect. We are eager to move forward with a plan but require administrative action. The remaining recommendation yet to be addressed is an increase to the budget for instructional supplies, studio equipment, and tools. This item is dependent upon financial resources and may be more feasible once the university has recovered from financial challenges incurred during the COVID 19 pandemic.



Jane Street Studio leak issues