



In September 2012 the Program Review Committee conducted a site visit as part of a Program Review of the Theatre Department. Members of the Program Review Committee included members from other Canadian Universities and one internal member from another department.

### **Overview**

The overall assessment was positive. The Review Committee described the curriculum as excellent, the production program as impressive and the physical resources as being of a very high quality. Graduates were described as well prepared to enter into certain forms of professional.3 (for) or 7 specialized undergraduate and graduate programs. It was noted that students and alumni have high levels of satisfaction with the quality of the instruction and mentorship.

“current outstanding facilities to unknown new facilities in University “face[s] a serious challenge regarding this unit, c  
It commented that this was the most important variable for the current UFV administration on its commitment to the f  
it with other Arts departments in Abbotsford and its plan to

community-based audiences. The production program was described as offering suitable depth, mentoring/teaching and hands-on and theoretical experience.

**Recommendation 1:** drop the Associate of Arts Degree (Theatre)

**Action:** .

**Action:** practica credit weights will have a consistent logic and as the department goes through the curriculum mapping and learning outcome alignment process, it will ensure practica credit weights are consistent with the outcomes.

**Recommendation 8:** offer more practica in the upper years of a major than in the lower years, so that students meet breadth requirements early in their academic careers.

**Action:** as the department works on the development of the major, the department will look at the distribution of practica through the entire four years of the program; currently upper level students who take on more demanding roles in the productions have the option to enroll in either an upper level practicum or one of the Theatre Practice practica 290 or 295; with the major, students may be required to take a 399 and a 499; these questions will be considered when working on the curriculum mapping, learning outcome alignment, and major development.

**Recommendation 9:** ensure class hours and credits are consistent across the Theatre curriculum.

**Action:** the department will review the class hours allocated to upper level studio courses to study the viability of reducing these; challenges here might be more pedagogical than administrative; since studio courses at most universities are based on 6 hours a week, but with a significant component of independent experiential learning, it may well be that the department needs to look at how to facilitate more student directed activities in studio based courses; the main issue here, for faculty, is workload

**Recommendation 10:** if developing a 200 level course in ,  
offer this every second year.

**Action:** this is a resource issue; currently, the department can only de;  
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**Action:** this decision will relate to revision of breadth requirements in BA and revision of writing requirement.

**Recommendation 14:** do not develop online versions of THEA 101, 201, and 202 until resources permit.

**Action:** the department is in agreement; the Dean will encourage online development once major curriculum changes have taken place.

**Recommendation 15:** do not develop upper--level course in Aboriginal Theatre and Performance until resources allow; instead, attend to performances that can address indigenization.

**Action:** the department will not develop upper-level course in Aboriginal Theatre and Performance until resources allow; instead it will attend to performances that can address indigenization such as this year's production of

**Recommendation 16:** goal of internationalization is best addressed through performance of world theatre.

**Action:** the goal of internationalization is best addressed through performance of world theatre; this past fall, the department organized a workshop and demonstration performance of Indian dance; the department plans more initiatives of this kind, especially in the year that the upper level World Theatre course is offered.

**Recommendation 17:** develop summer programming only if there is convincing evidence that summer programming will



**Action:** the department will explore partnerships with colleges which offer foundational theatre courses in order to attract those transfer students into the theatre major at UFV.

**Recommendation 5:** develop a marketing plan aimed at the “2<sup>nd</sup> tier” of very talented students not admitted to highly sought after programs.

**Action:** These initiatives will all be attended to by the new Marketing and Development Manager who will be asked to develop a coherent and rigorous recruitment plan, hopefully with the support of MarCom and Student Services.

**Recommendation 6:** create enticing topic courses aimed at non-majors.

**Action:** topic courses will be developed to attract non-Majors within allocated sections.

#### **D. Faculty and Staff**

The Committee noted that there is sufficient breadth and depth of expertise to deliver the programme as it is advertised. It noted that facu (m)19v28a)0.9 4.1 (o)-31 (o) nofacev7

**Action:** the department recognizes that the workload involved in the production season is excessively burdensome, yet has felt compelled to continue with the season as presently constituted for various reasons: first, to support the two staff positions funded through box office revenues; second, to provide the kind of range of performance opportunities needed by our students; third, from a community engagement and audien





**Recommendation 7:** explore synergies with other departments and community partners for work on digitizing the archive, making it accessible through the web page, and sharing this information.

**Action:** given the many other priorities and challenges facing the department at present, this initiative is a relatively low priority; however, it is possible staff changes and the creation of a special work study position could provide at least some means of moving this forward.

**Recommendation 8:** that the University and the Department explore all options for keeping the Yale Road theatre building permanently open even after the Department moves, including working with the City of Chilliwack and community performing arts groups regarding a purchase or lease; the report reads, "notwithstanding that Chilliwack has recently built a larger theatre venue, the Department's present theatre is an essential piece of community infrastructure and a significant cultural asset for the region. The theatre is less than 20 years old, is very well designed and highly serviceable, and should not be abandoned."

**Action:** the Dean will work with the VP External and Director of Campus Planning toward this end and will make this case at Campus Planning.

**F. Alignment with University and Community Needs/Plans**

The Theatre Department expands its role in the City of Chilliwack as a cultural asset and as a community partner.

## G. Program/Department Administration