Office of the Provost & Vice President Academic
Nipissing University
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Under Nipissing University's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) and the Ontario Universities Quality Assurance Framework (QAF), all programs are subject to a comprehensive review at least/at minimum every eight years to ensure that they continue to meet provincial quality assurance requirements and to support their ongoing rigour and coherence. This review was conducted under the terms and conditions of the IQAP approved by Senate on June 29, 2023 and ratified by the Quality Council on May 5, 2023

In academic years 2018-2019, a program review was scheduled for Fine Arts & Performing Arts. This was the 2nd program review for this program. The timeline of the review was as follows.

PROGRAM UNDER REVIEW

PROGRAM	SENATE APPROVAL DATE	PREPARED BY
FINE ARTS & PERFORMING ARTS	SEPTEMBER 13, 2019	PROVOST & VICE PRESIDENT

A. REVIEW TIMELINE

SELF-STUDY REVIEW TIMELINE	DATE
1. Self-Study Presented to AQAPC	October 29, 2018
2. Site Visit Conducted	January 10-11, 2019
3. Reviewer's Report Received	February 12, 2019
4. Department's Response Received	April 12, 2019
5. Dean's Response Received	April 24, 2019

A. REVIEW SUMMARY

Two external reviewers conducted the review. During the in-person site visit, the reviewers met with the following groups and individuals:

- Provost & Vice President, Academic & Research
- Dean of Arts & Science
- Program faculty
- Program students
- Monastery Studio Coordinator
- Internal Review Committee
- Registrar
- Harris Learning Library Executive Director & Librarian

- Program alumni
- Community members

The academic programs offered by the Department which were examined as part of the review included:

- Bachelor of Fine Arts
- Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts (Major)
- Minor in Studio Arts
- Minor in Art History, Visual Studies
- Minor in Film

The following program strengths were noted:

The reviewers noted a strong work ethic and commitment to high-quality teaching and research within FAPA, along with a shared dedication to the university's mission. However, they emphasized that limited resources are a significant barrier preventing the unit from fully achieving these goals.

Summary of review team recommendations:

The recommendations focus on strengthening the department's identity, resources, curriculum, and facilities. Key priorities include renaming the department to better reflect its scope, resolving urgent space and safety issues through a long-term facilities plan, and increasing funding for supplies, equipment, and student-focused initiatives. Hiring a tenure-track faculty member in Visual Culture, ideally with expertise in Indigenous art, media, and entrepreneurship, is also critical to support curriculum needs and program growth.

Curriculum improvements include introducing portfolio-based admissions, clearly differentiating learning outcomes between BFA and BA programs, and revising first- and third-year structures to emphasize foundational skills, consistency, and greater student flexibility. The department should also enhance student engagement and visibility through improved web presence, expanded events, and the creation of a student gallery space.

Finally, the recommendations stress better planning and governance, including coordinated leadership on space issues and sustained investment in faculty renewal and interdisciplinary opportunities to maintain program quality and competitiveness.

Status:
Due date for 2 Year Follow-up Report: 2021
Date of next Cyclical Review: 2026

B. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Below are the recommendations that require specific action as a result of the Review, along with the identification of the position or unit responsible for the action in question. Notwithstanding the position or unit identified as being responsible for specific recommendations, the Dean of the Faculty has the overall responsibility for ensuring that the recommended actions are undertaken

RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE MEMBER/UNIT	PROJECTED COMPLETION
#1 - Re-assess naming of Dept.	Dean with Unit	2020-2021
#2, 9 - Space planning incl. Monastery, Jane St., and Main Campus, as well as gallery	Dean of A&S, FAPA, PVPAR, Facilities	2019-2020
#3, 11 - Faculty renewal plan	PVPAR	Annual consideration
#4, 6 , 7, 10 - Curriculum development (FA students, non- FA students, international) disciplinary and non-disciplinary	FAPA	2021
#5 - Increase supplies	FAPA	Academic Plan 2020-2021
#8 - Web posting of FAPA products and assets	FAPA with External Relations	2019-2020