

C O L L E G E O F F I N E A R T S

school of media art

U . N . S . W .

D R A F T

Notes: School Committee Meeting

Held: Conference Centre, Tuesday, 3rd November 1993

Present:

Media Art Academic Staff in discussion with the Dean & Director, student representatives from B.F.A. and M.Art courses.

Apologies:

Paula Dawson
Lynne Roberts-Goodwin

ACTION

DISCUSSION OF THE ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

The Dean and Director expressed the view that the Review Document is only one part of what will be submitted to the Vice Chancellor for his comments and recommendations. It is not the only element. The need for COFA to reassess to become more efficient towards equity and flexibility is apparent.

Changes to courses or subjects will not be made. Any changes would need to go to faculty executive and committees for approval.

The School of Media Art rejects this review document and expresses concern over the lack of attention paid to the School of Media Art. Concerns include the process in selecting the review committee and the timeline for the enquiry.

The Dean and Director does not know at this stage what he will be recommending to the Vice Chancellor.

Inequities are costing us greatly in employment of casual staff. At present funding technological elements is coming from these funds.

The Head of School stated that there was a large burden on maintenance and repairs, while a whole budget line, for repairs had disappeared from the school budget. The College budget, overall supposedly only had \$35,000 allocated for repairs and maintenance, less than the 1992 School allocation.

The Dean and Director stated that the college had \$130,000 less this year than last year for equipment and maintenance funds. The University's goal is to plan over 3 - 5 years instead of yearly. Previously we did not have an idea of what we were getting, now we do a lot earlier.

Inequities - there seems to be no balance with staff hours, some are working 18 hours in the School of Media Art.

This School stresses that class lists were not accurate from registration in session two. Students have been withdrawing from classes without the lecturers' knowledge. It was agreed that all entry and exits will be done on line with the administrative representative next year, a positive step.

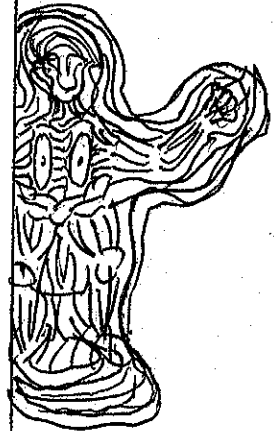
The Dean and Director stated that there would be no redundancies but redeployment will take effect. There should be more efficiency in stores staff and more flexibility of support staff.

Emphasis was made by the School on the importance of technicians and their specialisation in their area. If support staff were to be removed from that area then competency will be lost thus affecting students and courses.

The Dean and Director said he cannot be specific but there can be a lot of money saved here. He is personally aware of these needs. Service is not to be reduced but we need to look at other ways to make this area efficient.

A post graduate student stressed that part-time students were at a disadvantage due to the technicians working eight hour days.

The Dean and Director agreed we need more technical staff but in certain areas re-organising of hours would be adequate for all students' needs to be served.



With reference to why the courses have been segmented into the various schools as per the review document he stated:

- Art Education and Design: vocational as they require the endorsement for their profession.
- Art, Media and Studio and Art Theory: "general", so these would be suited to be structured together.
- Post Graduate: all aspects are seen as professional.

There would be a program director to assume responsibility for managing courses.

This School stated that the BFA in Media Art is not a generalist course. Separation of these courses is devaluing and demeaning. It was disagreed that Art was "a discipline" and was stated that "It is a critical and analytical open-ended enquiry into the world. Each individual discipline facilitating that enquiry, each with their own particular characteristic."

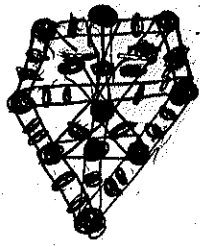
All courses are fixed and significant elements in the college. In the BFA there will be two program directors, one for Media and one for Studio, and thus for all courses. The management structure that has been devised is not yet complete and further input is needed.

Staff will teach in both Post Graduate and Undergraduate schools. All full time staff will be doing some supervision. At present there are only 18 out of 56 staff that do supervision.

There was a concern that Honours Students would be put in the postgraduate schools. Clarified as not so by the Dean.

It was suggested by the School that the structure should not be changed but be more refined. We are internationally known and our institution is used as a model elsewhere in the developing of art institutions. Major changes such as these will lower the School's reputation and that of the College.

A student representative stated that a survey conducted by students indicated that students are contributing 4.8% more towards their education costs than they should be, because of the budget shortfall, and this is increasing each year.



The Dean and Director stated that the college is allocated funds from the 1989 projection and this is adjusted. The Relative Funding Model is not a good means of obtaining more funds as there have been ongoing discussions for many years with DEET. The total money is finite and if changes were made other institutions would get less. The best way to obtain more funds is internally.

A senior lecturer felt we were operating at a very inexpensive level compared to other faculties and schools for instance, Science & Engineering.

Another point made was that the College is seen, both nationally and internationally, as an institution of high standard, quality and expertise because of the professional experience of the staff. Increased funding cuts, re-structuring of the schools and the re-arrangement of a professionally functioning team of artist/educators will jeopardise this institution in terms of attracting high quality students and in terms of the profile of the College in the national and international community.

Dean & Director left at 3:00p.m.. Meeting closed 3:30p.m. after further informal discussion.

1. Screening.
2. Research grant.
3. Post Annalist in January.

>consumables<

1. Sculpture. — support.

2. Photo. — lectures.

1. Speak to David Barnes.
2. get out file.

→ Dec 9th MFA Forms.