June 8, 2011

To: Larry Krissek

Chair, Arts and Sciences Committee on Curriculum and Instruction

From: Bebe Miller

 Chair, Arts and Humanities 1 (Arts Intensive) Subcommittee

Re: **I**nterdisciplinary Arts Minor Semester Conversion Proposals:

 Minor in Media Production and Analysis and Minor in Video Arts

The Arts and Humanities 1 Subcommittee reviewed these two proposals via email earlier this week. Both programs were originally housed in Arts Administration and are now housed in the Department of Theatre.

The Minor in Video Arts is a straightforward conversion from 25 quarter-credit hours to 17 semester-credit hours, retaining the four core-area requirements (Art, Dance, History of Art, and Theatre).

Although the PACER chart lists the Media Production and Analysis minor as a “new” program it’s been functioning since 2006 (the pre-electronic records era); its status as a new program is due to its recent approval by the ASC Oversight Committees. The program’s been converted from 21 quarter-hour credits to 15 semester hours with minimal changes, the required courses and elective coursework remaining fairly consistent with the quarter model (Theatre 367.03, a foundational course, needs a 4-digit number).

Our main concern for both programs is that the advising/administration status is a bit confusing. The PACER chart lists The Arts as the administering academic group for the Video Arts Minor, with the coordinating advisor as Arts and Sciences Advising or the Department of Theatre. For the Media Production Minor, Arts and Sciences is the administering academic group; one of the program advisors is from Theatre and other one listed is Susan Van Pelt from the School of Communications: since she is now 1) Susan VP Petry and 2) chair of the Dept of Dance, that should most likely be addressed.  As the minor must be approved by “the academic unit offering the minor” is the assumption that either of these departments can approve this minor?

The committee felt that since there is such a range of coursework from many departments, particularly in the Video Arts Minor, faculty in those departments—or Theatre—would be better equipped to advise individual students on what would best suit their needs rather than ASC advisors who, by definition, are more GEC advisors. Perhaps this issue should be put forward to the Theatre Dept (or ASC Advisors?) to be reviewed.

The committee unanimously approved both program conversions by E-vote, though felt that the advising procedure could be streamlined.