

March 31, 2016

Dear Meg,

The Arts and Humanities panel met on February 9, 2016 to discuss the new Moving Image Production major.

As a precursor to proposing this program and with a grant from the OSU Humanities Institute, the Moving Image Production Advisory Committee (MIPAC) was formed as a working group on Film Production: Research, Teaching, and Service. The MIPAC invested in a two-year study and discussion on the need, benefits, and relationships of a Moving-Image Production program at Ohio State. This proposal focuses on building a program of study with shared responsibility for accommodating MIP majors within courses that are already offered or that, if newly developed, would address the curricular needs of multiple programs: Film Studies, ACCAD, Art, Design, and Theatre. With leadership from the Department of Design, the chairs and directors of these entities have developed this Moving-Image Production program proposal.

This major in Moving-Image Production (MIP) leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree is proposed as an undergraduate major program in live action and animation filmmaking practices. The curriculum is designed to allow students to gain an understanding of the power and potential meaning of moving images and to develop the requisite creative talent to produce them using high-level production techniques and critical analytical skills. In addition to acquiring technical prowess, students will develop their own creative voices and explore modes of expressing them as a means of impacting the aesthetic and critical future of the filmmaking industry.

This proposal for a consolidated Moving Image Production major represents a shared collaborative effort among departments, a program and a research center that currently provide many existing courses on which the degree requirements will be built. The participating departments, center and program are ACCAD (Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and Design), Art, Design, Film Studies, and Theatre. The MIP program would use selective admission to meet its goal of a total enrollment of up to 200 majors at the end of four years. Thirty-five students (two full sections of core mode courses) would be admitted as a major program cohort at the sophomore level.

There are nine credits of pre-major courses, 38 credits of core courses and 15 credits to fulfill a film studies minor for a total of 62 credit hours. Of the core courses, eight courses are ‘Production Mode Studios’ and come from existing courses in the Arts that address studio experience within the filmmaking modes of Animation, Documentary, Experimental, and Narrative. As of today, the three Art courses that satisfy the Experimental category have not yet been approved. They were tabled by the Arts and Humanities Panel and the Panel has no update as to what is being done with the courses right now. Two courses of the core are ‘Senior Project’ courses, two courses are electives, and four courses (worth a total of two credits) are ‘Cinema Today’, which require students to attend regular film screenings each of their first four semesters in the MIP major. All courses are vetted by the MIP Advisory Committee. For the Film Studies Minor, students complete five courses following the pre-established Film Studies Minor requirements in order to gain a strong grounding in film criticism and analysis. Although they share an administrative home, the MIP B.A. is discrete from the Film Studies B.A., allowing MIP students to take a Film Studies minor without conflict.

The proposal outlines six program goals and an assessment plan with a timetable for implementation. Moving-Image Production has been selected by the ASC as a strategic initiative priority. With this prioritization, ASC suggests that it is committed to providing the needed funds for initiating and sustaining support of this program. This includes supporting the necessary number of faculty, although because ASC has already begun to invest in hiring faculty who will be attached to Moving-Image Production, the requirement for additional new faculty is minimal. It is anticipated that in its early stages, this program can be delivered using a number of existing facilities in the Arts and Sciences. If the program expands beyond its anticipated enrollment level, it will need its own production facilities, a screening room, finishing labs, an equipment cage and equipment that students can borrow. Planned additional facilities are currently in the Arts District campus plan. In part as a recognition that this is a technical major, the ASC will provide sustained support in the form of a continuous cycle of financial support for equipment.

The Arts and Humanities Panel of the ASCC unanimously approved the Moving Image Production major with a number of contingencies on February 9, 2016. Those contingencies have now been fully addressed in the revised proposal, and the proposed BA is being advanced to the ASCC with a recommendation to approve it.

Sincerely,

Janice M. Aski