

Program Review Committee Report

Department of Theatre

Spring 2009

Mission

The mission statement of the Department of Theatre is to provide students with a strong theoretical and practical foundation in theater, from mastering specific concepts of dramatic literature and skills to produce theatre, to providing a hands-on approach through public performances. The department also states it is one of the University's "public faces" and has an important role in the community. The mission statement is well defined, clearly stated in different media, and directly supports the mission statement of the university.

Goals and Objectives

They are clearly identified and stated and are in direct support of the department's mission statement. These goals address different issues, from student learning to program assessment. A goal presented in the previous program review still needing to be address is the renovation of the Andrew J. and Georgia Neese-Gray Theatre, a public space for the university (not only used by Theatre), which is the only section of the building not renovated since its construction. Since the last review, the department decided not to pursue the BFA given the resources needed.

Statistical Information

Student credit hours have slightly decreased since the last program review (2000-2004) from a total of 1650 credit hours to a total of 1619 credit hours. However, the numbers do not reflect courses taught in other disciplines or cross-listed under a different code, such as courses in the Women's and Gender Studies Minor. The department's number of majors, however, has remained stable at 13, the same as the previous program review. The department is slightly less expensive to run than in the last report, with the percentage of expenditures dropping 0.1%, from 1.3% to 1.2%.

Outcome Measures

Assessment methods and rubrics are defined for the goals and objectives identified by the department. These assessment methods include faculty development, general education skills, and curriculum.

Unit Strengths

Strengths mentioned in the report include dedicated faculty, a revitalized program, and teaching numerous general education courses. The Department of Theatre has also increased diversity and multiculturalism in its productions. A high level of autonomy is granted to the students, as shown in the student plays recently performed in which students are responsible for the entire production. Finally, the unit stresses how theatre works to connect people at a human and personal level, as opposed to the way technology connects people in virtual, not real, communities, sometimes isolating them in the real world.

Unit Weaknesses

The main weakness is the limitation of adequate rehearsal and performance space. There are issues with the current theatre, which was not originally designed to be a theatre and has not been

renewed since its construction. The current facility presents safety issues at times (e.g., when changing lights). Another weakness is limited scholarship and recruitment resources. A third weakness is the increasing cost of productions in view of the department's limited budget (88% of the unit budget goes into productions).

Changes in the Future

The department continues to emphasize the need to address the renovation/improvements to the theatre. In addition, they are working to increase the number of students participating in classes and performances.

Program Rating

Operating at an acceptable level.

Recommended Action

Singled out for further development. Consult with the administration regarding fundraising for future growth and program development. The Program Review Committee praises the Department of Theatre for its community outreach efforts, the increase of diversity and multiculturalism in its productions, and the practical experiences provided for its students.