

**Massachusetts College of Art and Design
Graduate Education Council
November 1, 2017
T1101, 1:00-2:30pm
Minutes**

Members Present - Paul Paturzo, Lois Hetland, Laura McPhee, Juan Obando, Maggie Shirland, Patricia Seitz, Dan Szabo, Kelly Knight

Advisors Present - Aurelio Ramirez, Dave Carder

Guests - Matthew Hincman

Recording Secretary - Felicia D. Scott, Nadia Savage

Call to Order

Chair Paul Paturzo called the meeting to order at 1:13pm.

1. Announcements:

- Kelly Knight was introduced as the student member of Graduate Education Council.
- Paul Paturzo discussed new programs with the Royal School, a private high school in Beijing which is forming a variety of ties with MassArt. Two 1-month artists' residencies will be available to graduate alumni. The Royal School is also interested in having graduate alumni co-teach full semester courses.
- The Strategic Planning Committee is setting up a thorough structure, with consultants on campus between December and April. The Strategic Plan will be completed in Fall 2018.
- Graduate Program Coordinators Retreat has been proposed for 1:30-8:30pm December 8th. All GEC members are invited. Dan Serig has been asked to facilitate.
- The Graduate Report and Recommendations document will be shared with GEC members for comments via a Google document.
- The Graduate Program proposes to split current tuition into 50% tuition and 50% fees for next year and to keep total tuition/fees flat at \$780 through 2019. The MFA Photography program will continue to charge an additional printing fee. The proposal will be sent to sub-committee and then to the Board of Trustees for a vote in February.

2. Proposed changes to the MFA FA3D Program

Matthew Hincman presented a proposal to change the MFA Fine Arts 3D Major Studio requirement. A copy of the proposal was sent to GEC members prior to the meeting.

- The proposed changes include:
 - 1st and 2nd semester: Replace the 6-credit Major Studio with one-on-one meetings with two 'Provisional Advisors', for 3 credits each.
 - 3rd semester: Replace the 6-credit Major Studio with Graduate Advising with 'Thesis Committee Chair' and 'Thesis Advisor' for 3 credits each (or for 6 credits with 'Thesis Committee Chair').
 - 4th semester: Replace the 6-9 credit Major Studio with Graduate Advising with 'Thesis Committee Chair' for 6 credits and 'Thesis Advisor' for 3 credits (or for 9

- credits with 'Thesis Committee Chair'). (MFA students may take a 3-credit elective in conjunction with a 6-credit major studio in the 4th semester.)
- Students select their own Thesis Committee consisting of at least one faculty member from their program (Committee Chair), and two other faculty members. The Thesis Committee will assess the student's Thesis Project.
 - This proposal allows students to select faculty they wish to work with, based upon the media and concepts they are interested in.
 - GEC members acknowledged the diversity of media that MFA 3D students work within, and that having individualized meetings could be of benefit to them. GEC members were concerned that students would lose much of the strength of the program (loss of cohort, peer mentoring, critical dialog with peers, and visiting artist experiences) in not having a cohort building Major Studio course. Members suggested that there be a way to include a full 3D cohort experience in some way, possibly through a 3-credit Major Studio, every week or every other week.
 - Matthew Hincman will discuss the issue with the 3D faculty and bring a revised proposal for vote at a future meeting.
 - Admissions process changes were also proposed. FA3D faculty (on a volunteer basis) will review applicants from their area of concentration and create a 'draft cohort'. Members of the committee will engage in a final phone call (skype call, etc.) with the top ranked candidates, and applicants will not be asked to attend interviews on campus.

3. Proposed Changes to MFA Graduate Seminar II Requirement

For the MFA full residency fine arts programs, Paul Paturzo presented a proposal to reduce the current two-semester graduate seminar requirement to one semester by eliminating the spring semester Graduate Seminar II course requirement. The proposed change is a response to student feedback. GEC discussed whether the course could be improved and retained, whether there are deficits in the program that could be addressed in the course, or whether students would be better served by enrolling in additional elective.

- GEC proposed that students enroll in one of a short menu of electives offered by the graduate program to retain the benefit of working across the 1st year cohort. This allow for enrollment with 2nd year students, while allowing students to tailor enrollment to their interests.
- A plan for one full year of electives was proposed in anticipation of this potential change. **Spring 2019:** art education pedagogy course which is required by MFA Photo students who want to teach, and to be recommended for other majors; exhibitions and curation course; Graduate Review Forum with Adrian Kohn. **Fall 2018:** Skill based elective such as laser cutter/3D printer with artist such as Clint Baclawski; public art course with Juan Obando; artistic practice as inquiry with a visiting faculty such as Marilyn Arsem, Camilo Alvarez, Marie Cieri, Arzu Mistri, Mariama White Hammond, Destiny Palmer, Deb Todd Wheeler.
- **VOTE:** GEC voted unanimously to replace the 3-credit Graduate Seminar II requirement with a requirement that students enroll in one of a menu of electives offered by the graduate program, in the MFA Full Residency fine arts programs.

4. Approval of Minutes from 10/4 and 10/18

GEC members will vote on the minutes by email.

Adjournment

Chair Paul Paturzo adjourned the meeting at 2:32pm.