Budget Planning and New Initiatives

- Implemented with New, Continuing SPIF funding a Freshman/Junior trip to the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MassMoCA) in North Adams, MA in the fall semester. 52 students went on this retreat and due to its success we have planned to repeat this initiative in the upcoming Academic Year early in the fall semester.
- Used SPIF funding to purchase new equipment and tools, along with a secure storage cabinet for the three-dimensional design and sculpture areas.
- Drafted with ITS a plan for four-year replacement cycles for computers, scanner and printers in the Graphic Design and Animation studios, along with a plan to alternatively supply faculty with Macintosh laptops on their regular equipment upgrade cycle. Both of these plans were funded for FY 14.
- Secured funding for AY 2013-14 for studio space for advanced students in the Studio Art concentrations, we will continue to work with the Office of Academic Affairs and Graduate Studies in identifying suitable space for this purpose.
- Worked with ITS to purchase two new multi-media carts for use on the fourth floor and basement studios in May Hall respectively, and one wall-mounted flatscreen television for the Graphic Design.

Assessment

The Departmental Assessment Committee and the Departmental Curriculum Committee worked on reviewing two overlapping goals: Studio Art Goal 5: To demonstrate knowledge of major art periods, art movements, multicultural art traditions, and individual artists from antiquity to present; and Art History Goal 1: To possess a high degree of visual and art historical literacy. To these ends we collected student artifacts from select Art History and Studio Art courses that address these concerns in particular. We found that our students are adequately able to contextualize their work within the continuum of art practice and art history. This was evident in work samples, oral presentations and artist statements composed for the Senior Thesis Exhibition.

In addition we worked on restructuring the curriculum and comprehensive exam requirements for our M.Ed. Program. Our changes included a curricular change required all graduate students to take ARTS 820 Life Drawing in their first year of graduate work, since we have found most of our students suffer from a deficiency in basic drawing skills which are integral in teaching.

The Departmental Curriculum Committee has also set a goal to investigate the feasibility of creating two new academic programs (Arts Administration and Art Therapy) in collaboration with Economics and Business Administration and Psychology in the upcoming year, this is in response to student interest and the request of the Dean of Graduate Studies to investigate possible five-year BA/MA programs.
National Accreditation
The primary goal for the Department in AY 2012-13 was preparation for our upcoming accreditation review by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD), which is scheduled for November 17-20, 2013. In tandem with the initial steps in drafting our Self-Study we have implemented changes to the Studio Art curriculum, initiated an annual survey of both current students and alumni, and adjusted our assessment plan to better measure our student learning outcomes. In addition to a consultative visit in AY 2011-12 by Deborah Dluhy in preparation for our NASAD application Brian Bishop and Marc Cote attended the NASAD Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, WI in October 2012 to learn more about the specific procedures of the accreditation application and site visit.

- Changed the Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art core curriculum as well as the Graphic Design and Illustration program to better align these programs with our other Studio Art concentrations and to streamline the required courses to enable students to select a minor outside the department.
- Initiated a plan for implementing student and alumni surveys (5, 10 and 15 years post-graduation) with the Office of Assessment and sent surveys to graduates and current students to collect data for NASAD Self-Study.
- Created a work-study position with the express purpose to document student art work from all classes on an ongoing weekly basis. This will allow us to better assess student outcomes across the curriculum and build a comprehensive student artifact portfolio.
- Created a digital repository on the Digital Commons with the assistance of Millie Gonzalez to store student art work for review by the NASAD Accreditation Team.
- Collaborated with the faculty in Fashion, Design and Retailing (FDR) and Communication Arts (CA) in collecting data for a comprehensive facilities assessment for all studio facilities and equipment in relation to the size and scope of our programs.
- Collected budgetary data and statistics for the Higher Education Arts Data Survey (HEADS) report to measure the size and scope of the Art and Design offerings on campus (including FDR and CA), this is an annual report due each calendar year as part of the accreditation process.