

## IUPUI GAC Reviewer Form

**Date Reviewed:** October 20, 2010

### **Documents Reviewed:**

Proposal for a New Track, MFA in Visual Art and Public Life: Photography and Intermedia (with attachments)

**Summary of Proposal:** This proposal seeks to add a specialization to the existing MFA in photograph, video, sound art, performance, and other areas peripheral to these media.

#### **1. Are the goals clear and achievable?**

- A review of the goals, expressed as objectives in the proposal, do seem clear and achievable. Indeed, they are solidly based on National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) standards for a terminal degree focused on "Practice-Oriented Degrees." In fact, the data presented suggest this is a very viable track to the MFA in terms of professional need as well as market demand.

#### **2. Is the program academically sound?**

- This program appears well thought out and solidly based on established standards for such professional degrees. The course work required for the degree appears to match effectively the requirements established within NASAD guidelines and coursework identified as required and elective seems quite demanding yet focused on the production of highly qualified professionals in the field of photography and related visual disciplines.
- A review of the curriculum indicates a well detailed program of study of 60 credit hours. The curriculum relies heavily on already developed courses and adds only four new courses to the inventory. Those new courses, representing 17 additional credit hours, appear to be the key elements that differentiate this degree from other MFA degrees.
- The 16 new credit hours are well detailed and presented in the proposed new course syllabuses. They appear academically challenging and yet absolutely appropriate to the stated goals/objectives of the degree.

#### **3. Are faculty resources available to offer this certificate without undercutting other key missions of the unit?**

- The school currently proposes to use three existing faculty in in photography to support the new coursework in this degree track. Their qualifications appear excellent and perfectly suited to the curriculum. Other faculty are already teaching other courses in other programs within the school and can support the slight additional load that will occur with

this new program. There appears to be no indication that this additional degree track will undercut any existing program in any way.

**4. Is there overlap, either real or potential, with any other unit that could harm the program or be exploited to help the program?**

- Only Liberal Arts and Journalism offer any visual communication courses, and neither do so at the graduate level. Thus, this new program would appear to present no conflicts to existing programs nor does there appear to be any reason to be concerned about harm to other programs.

**5. My recommendation, comments/concerns regarding this proposal:**

- I believe this proposal is a solid presentation of an excellent expansion of IUPUI's, and Herron's, programmatic offerings that specifically support the professional practices of visual communication and at the same time provide the school room to grow and our students, and potential students, new opportunities in graduate education tied to solid professional and educational standards. It is well thought out, solidly documented, thoroughly developed with professional practice in mind, and firmly routed in appropriate academic standards for fine arts programs via NASAD.
- I recommend approval of this proposal.