The Curriculum and Education Policy Committee would like to thank the members of the Art Department for their recent Five-Year Review. The report reflected what the Committee also perceives, that the department is moving in a positive direction as evidenced by the change in the spirit of the department, the positive contributions being brought by the recently-hired members of the department, the well-articulated mission and vision statements in the report, and the strengths of the department and recent improvements articulated in the report:

- The Bush Art Center facilities;
- The hiring of female members of the discipline;
- The evolving curriculum, including the Art Foundations course sequence, the design course, contact between first-year students and studio faculty, the new media courses, and the studio-based Core Curriculum courses; and
- The quality of the students as reflected by their work and the recognition that work has received.

As you look to the future, we want to affirm and suggest some important efforts. First, we want to affirm the department’s desire to be more engaged in the local community. This seems important enough to the department and the College as a whole that it should move towards the top of your list of priorities. In fact, now may be the perfect time for such an effort, given the new members of the department.

Second, we also want to affirm the priority you put on the addition of an Art Historian. Given the current resource limitations of the College, we would suggest that you consider which faculty position (art history or three-dimensional art) would be better to hire presently for the tenure track position and which would be easier to fill through adjuncts.

Third, while it was not discussed in the Review, Dr. Pirman verbally shared with the Committee that your department understands the need to create an assessment plan for the department. We want to also affirm that effort and encourage you to work closely with Dr. Ray Zurawski in the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

Finally, in order to maximize the opportunities for funding the work of the Art discipline, we encourage members of the Art faculty to begin a conversation with the Advancement staff about working with potential donors and other sources of external funding. The first step in that conversation may be the development of a list of potential needs within the discipline that could be shared with the Advancement staff and potential donors.

Thanks for all your work on this Review, and we look forward to receiving your Year Two report next academic year. Before we close, however, we would like to add two more points. First, our compliments on the look of the Review; it was by far the most visually-pleasing document that’s come to the committee this year! Second, and most important, please know our thoughts and prayers are with all of you in the department with the passing of Dr. Bill Bohne’.