Mission Statement

Saint Norbert College Theatre Studies embraces a liberal arts education challenging students intellectually, spiritually, and personally. We educate our students in critical and creative thinking skills as well as the practices of the Theatrical Arts. Through performance, we discover and investigate the interplay between theory and practice, student and community culminating in challenging, provocative, and rewarding productions. Saint Norbert College Theatre Studies seeks to create opportunities for all participants and foster a spirit of communion and collaboration while striving for excellence.

Vision Statement

As our department has grown since its inception in 200*, we have been able to craft a program which serves the immediate needs of the departmental productions as well as educate our students in the fundamentals of theatrical theory and practice. The next step in our departments’ development is to establish a culture that trains our students in the long view. We want our students to not only learn how to think and understand theatre, but we also want them to gain the tools to create theatre outside the confines of SNC, beyond graduation. We also need to strengthen and codify our assessment procedures, which includes our main assessment tool – the Senior Capstone.

Strategic Plan and Action Steps

1. A Reevaluation and codification of the Senior Capstone Project
   
   Rationale: The capstone was established as a culmination of all the students’ learning into a challenging and meaningful project/production and has grown relatively organically since its inception. In practice though, the capstone was often left up to the student’ own impetus or it was wrapped into the departmental productions. We need to create a definite comprehensive procedure for the creation and implementation of the senior capstone.

   Action Steps
   
   a. Define the capstone project and its learning outcomes.
   b. Create a schedule template and the rubric procedures.
   c. Investigate and establish funding guidelines.
   d. Create the capstone syllabus that will be given to all majors at the end of their Junior year.
   e. Obtain feedback from past and current capstone students.

2. Arts Administration minor/concentration feasibility study
Rationale: One of our main departmental goals is to prepare our students to create theatre beyond SNC graduation. We believe we are meeting/exceeding our students educational needs in most major production and pedagogical areas but there is one focus that is lacking – administration/producing. We would like to study the feasibility of establishing an interdisciplinary Arts Administration minor/concentration.

Action Steps
a. Devise the goals/learning outcomes for an Arts Administration minor.
b. Study peer and aspirant Arts Administration programs.
c. Research other on-campus departments’ offerings to discover if current resources can support the minor or if we would need to generate a new faculty position.

3. Establish the Theatre Workshop enrichment program
Rationale: In keeping with our goal of guiding the students towards making their own theatre, we will be establishing the Theatre Workshop, an enrichment program. The purpose of this program is to expose our students to dramatic literature beyond what they are reading in class. They will also be creating and workshopping their own texts that we will then produce as a reader’s theatre performance at the end of the semester. This program is voluntary and almost entirely self-governed – the faculty member is merely a guide through the process. The point of this program is to give the students a space to write and perform their own pieces in a low-risk environment. There is nothing on campus that gives the students the opportunity to craft their own theatre text with a goal of production.

Action Steps
a. Develop a syllabus and reading list for the program. The syllabus will be a code of conduction developed by the students, guided by the faculty.
b. Establish a schedule for readings and student work assignments.
c. Investigate and establish funding sources.
d. Produce a reader’s theatre production of the student’s work at the end of the semester.
e. Garner feedback and assessment data for future workshops.

4. Develop a Theatre Studies Departmental Handbook
Rationale: For as small as we are, our department can be confusing for a first year student. We will be creating a handbook that details what is expected of our majors and minors as well as the guidelines for the use of APHFA and its assets. We want as much transparency for our students as possible.

Action Steps
a. Create an outline establishing the necessary information needed by 1st year and beginning theatre students. We will need to convey concretely
what they can expect from the department/productions as well as what we expect of them.
b. Establish the guidelines for the usage of APHFA and its assets.
c. Form a student task force to assess the handbook and implement necessary addendum and changes.
d. Request input from departmental alumni.