

Dean's Report
January 12, 2008
College of Fine Arts
Submitted by Chuck McWeeny

I am fortunate to be present at this moment in the college's history. This is an exciting time with significant change and great progress along with clear and positive potential. New faculty and leadership over the past few years have brought creative ideas and insights that have helped me articulate a vision for the college that has been expressed through a college strategic plan. This strategic plan aligns our goals and vision with those of the university. The arts are an integral aspect of life at the university and students are taking arts classes and attending arts productions and exhibitions in record numbers. Our collective hard work and dedication have found significant support from the university administration. This support has helped us move the college to the forefront of the social and cultural center of the university. The goal of integrating the arts into multiple aspects of academic life has made steady progress and still has much potential. The College of Fine Arts' strategic plan that was created and approved during this period has guided our decisions, determined our priorities and governed the deployment of our resources. Throughout the past two years, I have kept focused on the college goals, ever mindful of our responsibility to the college's students, faculty and staff as well as to the cultural life of the university and the region.

The college has made tremendous progress in a challenging environment due to the dedication of our faculty, staff and students and the support of the university administration. This has been a time of unprecedented change in leadership in the college. The leadership team has changed nearly across the board and the new leaders are either just coming aboard or just beginning to establish themselves and their ideas. Keeping the goals of the college in mind, we have made some major changes and advancements. Some of the accomplishments of the past two years are:

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Arts for Ohio

I sought the approval of the students as a way to garner support for the arts at Ohio University. With the help of several people, I presented the **Arts for Ohio** idea to the undergraduate and graduate student senates. Both groups gave their approval and enthusiastically passed resolutions that supported the arts by calling for the implementation of **Arts for Ohio**. This put the arts on a parallel track with athletics as being a university wide benefit to the university environment and quality of life. In addition to the senate resolutions, the newly formed student general fee committee recommended funding of **Arts for Ohio**, as did the Provost and the Budget Planning Council. Although still only partially funded with one time money from the Provost's Office, support of the arts at Ohio University has made tremendous progress in the past two years.

This support and the funding have made an enormous difference for the college, providing us with opportunities for new audiences with a new focus on venue, programming and delivery of the arts to the student population. I am very proud of this initiative because I believe it will inform generations of students about the arts and make them better citizens because of it.

Bachelor of Arts degree

After negotiation and discussion with my colleagues and with the Provost, the college was given the curricular oversight of the existing Bachelor of Arts degrees in content areas (art, music and theater) of the college. Many people were involved in the support of this measure. It was a significant shift in the policies of the university. The School of Dance has developed a Bachelor of Arts in Dance. It was approved by the Board of Regents and is currently being offered. All of the College's undergraduate schools are re-designing the degree to attract students and to fit their pedagogical and programmatic needs.

Faculty compensation

As a member of the faculty compensation committee, I was able to advocate on behalf of the college faculty for a significant increase in compensation. The university invested in faculty compensation in general and has decided to continue to bring faculty salaries up to our peer institutions. College of Fine Arts faculty have especially benefited from this investment as studies showed fine arts faculty, as well as other university faculty, were significantly lagging

behind their peers and their colleagues in the university. In the first wave of investment, new faculty salaries have increased to \$50,000. To avoid compression issues, continuing Assistant Professor salaries have been raised by 10%. These increases should help significantly in the recruitment of new faculty and our retention of faculty. We have also eliminated any salary compression between Assistant and Associate Professors. There is much work to do, but the investment in compensation in the long run will increase productivity, retention and morale.

Strategic Plan

Over the course of a year we developed a college strategic plan, Vision COFA. I led a college advisory committee that was comprised of representatives of all the college units that met frequently to create a plan that was ultimately approved by the college faculty and directors. The plan is aspirational and achievable as it reflects the values of the college that support our dual mission.

The schools developed related school strategic plans. Each school devised “quality measures”, a hierarchical list of faculty activities, venues, publishers and other measurable professional activities. A common set of college quality measures were derived from the individual school measures. These measures are designed to offer insight into our progress towards our goals and our faculty productivity.

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

An administrator accomplishes little without a very competent and dedicated staff and the support of the faculty. Hard work, teamwork and a consistent vision have led to a number of accomplishments throughout the college.

Academics

- Fine Arts General Education Requirement: All Ohio University students are required to take a fine arts course as part of their general education requirement. To be implemented in Fall 2008.
- Convened, along with the Dean of Scripps College of Communication, a communication and fine arts ad hoc committee to discuss interdisciplinary areas of cooperation and conflict.
- Education abroad expansion, new programs established in Mexico, Hungary and Spain.

- Increased support for minority student recruitment. Funded and staffed multiple trips to high minority population schools. Funded and staffed Fine Arts fairs around the country.
- Completed a review of faculty teaching on-line courses and developed a protocol for future offerings.

Academic Support

- Completed the revitalization and unification of the college and school websites.
- Increased support for graduate travel and creative research.
- Doubled the participation of our incoming freshmen in the residential learning communities. Increased faculty and staff participation in these communities.
- Developed and implemented a comprehensive process for the evaluation of school directors including goals, self-evaluation, faculty and dean evaluations. Initiated a meeting between the faculty chair of the evaluation committee and the dean.
- Established a three-year computer refresh program for faculty. By next year all faculty will have laptop computers that are less than three years old.
- Celebrated Ohio University Players at Monomy Theater's 50th anniversary.

Staffing

The College of Fine Arts has had a unique and rapid leadership transition over the past two years. There is an excitement for the opportunity that this presents. These changes have taken some time, effort and resources to establish but I am confident that we have made excellent choices.

- Successful search and hire for the following positions:
 - Director, School of Music, Michael Parkinson
 - Director, School of Art, David LaPalombara
 - Director, Kennedy Museum of Art, Ed Pauley
 - Director of Development, Julie Zdanowicz
 - Director of Communication and Marketing, Amy Wells
- Appointment of the following:
 - Associate Dean, Jody Lamb
 - Director, School of Interdisciplinary Arts, Dora Wilson

- Interim Director, School of Film, Steve Ross
- Interim Director, School of Theater, William Fisher
- Interim Director, School of Art, Joe Bova
- Director, Athens Community Music School, Beth Braun

Facilities

Facility problems continue to be a major area of concern with no significant solution on the horizon. However, there have been incremental improvements.

- School of Film was awarded additional space in Lindley when Career Services vacated their space. The new space had minor renovation.
- Mitchell auditorium received technology upgrades. Additionally Mitchell seats were reupholstered.
- Former Visual Resource Library received renovation funds to make a meeting room, seminar room and storage area.
- Siegfred Hall was placed on the ten-year capital plan in line for a full renovation.
- Completed second floor renovation of the Kennedy Museum. Secured funds for further renovation. Dedicated Christine Demler Brown Educational facility.

Creative Research Support and Activities

- Doubled Creative Research support through external gift designation and Research office match. Individual grants moved from \$5000 to \$7500 and each year \$50,000 has been made available for the Creative Research Awards.
- Graduate and undergraduate students received significant awards from the University funded Student Enhancement Awards (SEA) for research, scholarship and creative activity. Fine Arts students received almost 1/3 of the total awards given throughout the University.
- For the past two years, our students have capitalized on awards from the Provost's Undergraduate Creative Research Fund (PURF) by receiving approximately 20% of the total university funding available as well as 20% of the total awards given.
- Experienced increased participation in the College of Fine Arts Dean's Undergraduate Creative Research Awards over the past two years with 27 proposals funded across the college.
- The Marching 110 performed in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. All funds were raised from outside sources.

- Provided support for the following on-campus conferences:
 - Mid America Print Council Conference
 - East Central Regional American College Dance Conference
 - Performing Africa! Visualizing Africa! International Conference

Service

- Member, Facilities and Planning Advisory Committee (FPAC). Agenda: recommend 10-year capital plan. Advise on all other Facility issues.
- Member, Compensation Committee. Agenda: determine amount of compensation increase and process for distribution.
- Member Vision Ohio Graduate Implementation Team.
- Member, Space Management Advisory Committee (SMAC).
- Member, Percent for Arts Committee.
- Member, University Curriculum Committee.
- Member, University Calendar Committee.
- Member, Academic Leadership committee.
- Member Kennedy Lecture Series (2006-07 only)
- Decorative Arts Center Board (2006-07 only)
- Chair, Ad-hoc Five-Year Academic Action Plan feedback committee

Alumni

- Hired a new Director of Development to re-engage college alumni.
- Web presence for alumni participation.
- Successful Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner that has increased college wide participation.
- E-newsletter underway for communication with Alumni.
- Alumni Board under construction.

Personal professional activity

- Two photographs of my work appeared in a new book, “500 Animals in Clay” by Lark Press.
- Small group show invitational, March 2007, Western Kentucky University
- “Ohio University: 1990 Until Now” group exhibition at River bend Winery, Louisville, KY
- Attended International Council of Fine Arts Deans (ICFAD) conferences in Charleston, SC and Scottsdale, AZ.

Professional Associations

- International Council of Fine Arts Deans (ICFAD) attended conferences in Scottsdale, AZ and Charleston, SC
- National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) attended conferences in Portland, OR and Louisville, KY
- College Art Association (CAA) Attended conference in New York and Boston

Teaching

I have found it to be important to teach while serving as an administrator, both to stay in touch with the mission of the university and as a way to retain skills and currency.

- Taught graduate pedagogy seminar in the School of Art
- Taught graduate ceramics
- Member of eight graduate and thesis committees
- Chaired three thesis committees