Annual Departmental Assessment Report Department or Program: Theatre Arts

Academic Year of Report: AY 2017-18

Department Contact Person for Assessment: Harry Wonham

# Section 1: Learning Objectives Assessed for this Report

The Department of Theatre Arts has completed two years in its four-year process of assessment focused on the department’s four Learning Outcomes. The AY 2016-17 report summarized the department’s assessment of Leaning Outcome 1, which states that students in specified TA courses should:

**Demonstrate knowledge, research, and analysis of theatre history, dramatic literature and critical theory across time and cultures, employing effective written and oral communication.**

This report for AY 2017-18 summarizes the department’s assessment of Leaning Outcome 2, which states that students in specified TA courses should:

**Demonstrate the comprehension of form and content in theatre through production-related practice, applying skill sets of design, technology, management, and performance.**

# Section 2: Assessment Activities

Courses examined during this assessment of Leaning Outcome 2:

Fall 2017

TA 210 (Hooker) (questionnaire 1)

Winter 2018

TA 212 (DeJong) (questionnaire 1)

TA 452/552 (Rodley) (questionnaire 3)

TA 490 (Barre) (questionnaire 2)

Assessment Methods:

Department faculty in the designated courses collected the following information on student attainment of Learning Outcome 2:

* 1. Comments on Student Course Evaluations
  2. Targeted sample of graded projects from three randomly selected students per course
  3. Data collected from a student questionnaires (conducted between Weeks 5-7) pertaining to Learning Outcome 2

On June 12, 2018, TA faculty convened to discuss the data described above. The DH had prepared a series of graphs to provide visual summaries of student feedback on the three questionnaires used to measure student experience on Learning Outcome 2. Because the results of all three questionnaires showed overwhelmingly positive results, faculty comments centered on ways in which we might probe more deeply in subsequent attempts to measure student learning. The group discussed several strategies for improving the content and administration of the questionnaires that will be developed for measuring Learning Outcomes 3 and 4.

Teachers of the courses designated for assessment described the targeted samples of graded student work, which were passed around the table for consideration by colleagues. Because of the size of the file (approximately 100 pp.), the DH explained that he did not copy the targeted samples of student work, which will remain available in the department office for ongoing use during the assessment process. The graded projects received positive feedback from faculty, both for their rigor and for the thoroughness of the commentary returned to students.

The discussion then turned to plans for assessing Learning Outcome 3, which is quite different from LOs 1 and 2. A plan of action was established for generating a new questionnaire during Fall of AY 2018-19, so that it can be administered in designated courses during Winter and Spring.

# Section 3: Actions Taken Based on Assessment Analysis

As a result of our discussion of the data used to assess Learning Outcome 2, members of the department reiterated their interest (first articulated after the discussion of LO 1) in expanding the role of written communication in Theatre Arts courses generally.

# Section 4: Other Efforts to Improve the Student Educational Experience

# As always, the Department of Theatre Arts is pursuing a number of curricular improvements, including the development of its Summer SOUP program and ongoing review of our “Futures” seminar for TA majors in their junior year. We are considering a significant overhaul of our Minor, in order to attract more students to TA courses. We are also initiating a high school recruitment plan, and, also as always, we are attempting to expand opportunities for students to participate in University Theatre productions.

# Section 5: Plans for Next Year

During AY 2018-19, the department plans to assess student attainment of Learning Outcome 3, which states that students in designated TA courses should be able to:

**Demonstrate personal theatrical aesthetic and artistic vision through script analysis and interpretation, integrating the visual and material/physical in collaborative practice**

We will repeat the process of review followed during AY 2016-17 and AY 17-18 by collecting the following information on student attainment of Learning Outcome 3 from designated courses:

1. Comments on Student Course Evaluations
2. Targeted sample of graded projects from three randomly selected students per course
3. Data collected from a student questionnaire pertaining to Learning Outcome 3