Dear Professor Woehrel,

I am writing to you on behalf of Alice Pitt, Vice-Provost Academic, to authorize development of your proposal for a major modification of the MA in Dance. I am providing the following summary of our internal consultations as guidance for the development of your proposal.

The NOI provides a rationale for a streamlined MA Dance. On the one hand, the MA Dance is increasingly seen less as a terminal degree than as gateway to a PhD. On the other hand, students who wish to combine advanced study in Dance with a B.Ed are put off by the length of the degree (this is no doubt exasperated by fact that the B.Ed itself has become a 2 year degree. The full proposal should ensure that the rationale for the modifications are well described as serving the different groups of students you hope to attract. The Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis (OIPA) can help determine how many BFA students in Dance apply for the B.Ed. Understanding how many students over past few years have opted for coursework only may support rationale. The proposed change is not insignificant in terms of articulated learning outcomes. Changes to more than a third of the outcomes is generally considered as the upper limit before a new program must be proposed. Given that there is already a coursework option in place, it must be possible to satisfy program outcomes following this route. However, those involved in approval process will need to be convinced that the reduction in requirements to get to a 3 term program can be managed without significant change to outcomes. The proposal should provide a side by side analysis of existing outcomes and revised outcomes. As York continues to develop quality assurance, it is also important to specify how the program leads to specific outcomes for students (i.e. qualifies them for PhD, enhances teaching qualifications in various settings, etc). More attention is also being given to ensuring that outcomes are mapped effectively onto the courses and other learning opportunities and that they are assessed appropriately. The MRP and thesis operate as a kind of capstone experience in research degrees. How will this program ensure that students have achieved the LO's by the time they complete the program? In a slightly different direction, would consultations with Faculty of Education open a space whereby the B.Ed and MA Dance might share a course or the B.Ed make available some advanced standing for the MA. The Office of the Vice Provost Academic would be happy to facilitate conversations. The NOI suggests that existing resources are sufficient. The proposal will need to describe how the program will be mounted over a three-year period in order to demonstrate that students will be able to complete in 3 consecutive term?

The template for major modifications can be found on the YUQAP site:

<http://yuqap.info.yorku.ca/home/procedures/protocols/major-modifications-to-existing-programs/>

Please provide the proposal to the Office of the Vice Provost Academic (yuqap@yorku.ca<mailto:yuqap@yorku.ca>) at the same time as it is sent to the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum and Policy (ASCP).

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Julie Parna

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