

## **REPORT OF ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

### **Report #F2016-1; October 2016**

In this report the Academic Standards Committee (ASC) brings to Senate its evaluation and recommendation on one item:

- **School of Creative Industries, Faculty of Communication and Design - Elimination of the Performance Studies Module**

#### **A. SCHOOL OF CREATIVE INDUSTRIES - ELIMINATION OF THE PERFORMANCE STUDIES MODULE**

The School of Creative Industries proposes to eliminate one of its thirteen modules, the Performance Studies module, commencing with the 2017/18 academic year.

##### **Rationale**

The Performance Studies module requires the completion of four required and two elective courses and is offered jointly by the English Department and the School of Performance. Among the modules offered (all Creative Industries students must complete two modules), it is the least popular, with only one student progressing through the module out of more than five hundred enrolled in the program this past year. There are two primary reasons for this.

(1) The English Department changed the names and, to some extent, the focus of two required courses in the module, ENG 108 and ENG 208, prior to the inaugural year of the module. The original names, The Nature of Narrative I and II, were changed to Introduction to Fiction and Introduction to Non-Fiction. These changes, from an emphasis on narrative to fiction in ENG 108 and to non-fiction (described as travel writing, political speeches, scientific and legal discourse, etc.) in ENG 208, appeared to undermine the relevance of these courses for a module purporting to examine modes of performance. While "narrative" connotes story-telling in any genre, whether literary or performance, "fiction" and "non-fiction" do not. Further, for Fall 2016, ENG 108 will be replaced by ENG 110, Literatures Across Borders. Again, this revised course does not apply to performance studies.

(2) The introduction in 2014/15 of an Acting/Dance Studies module by the School of Performance included a number of studio courses. With just one exception, the few Creative Industries students who had started the Performance Studies module immediately switched to the new module and this module continues to be the module of choice for students interested in live performance. A total of twenty-seven students are currently undertaking this module.

##### **Impact**

The elimination of this module from the Creative Industries curriculum will have no negative consequences. The only student engaged in this module has two courses remaining and is likely to complete them in 2016/ 17. In any event, the module will be available for credit until the student completes it. The 2016/17 Ryerson Calendar states that no new registrations in 2016-2017 will be accepted.

Virtually all of the courses offered in the Performance Studies module will still be available to Creative Industries students. Three of the four theatre/dance courses in this module are also offered in the Acting/Dance Studies module, and all six English courses listed in the module are offered as open electives by the English Department.

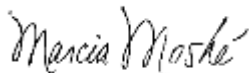
With the arrival of its fourth cohort in 2016/17 the School of Creative Industries will reach a steady-state enrolment of nearly seven hundred students. The remaining twelve modules delivered to its students by the other eight schools in the Faculty of Communication & Design are more than adequate to accommodate student demand.

<b>Performance Studies Module (to be eliminated)</b>	<b>Acting/Dance Studies Module (ongoing)</b>
<p>Complete six (6) courses as follows: Four (4)</p> <p>Required courses:            ENG 108 Introduction to Fiction            ENG 208 Introduction to Non-Fiction            THF 200 Timelines of Performance History I            THF 201 Timelines of Performance History II</p> <p>Plus one (1) of the following:            THF 403 Landmarks in Canadian Theatre            THF 404 Landmarks of Choreographic Development</p> <p>Plus one (1) of the following:            ENG 550 Drama            ENG 560 Poetry and Poetics            ENG 701 Canadian Literatures            ENG 706 Shakespeare and Performance</p>	<p>Complete six (6) courses as follows: Two (2)</p> <p>Required courses:            THF 101 Elements of Production I            THF 200 Timelines of Performance History I</p> <p>Plus two (2) of the following:            THA 340 Improvisation            THO 220 Latin American Dance Forms            THO 320 Western Dance Styles            THF 325 Musical Theatre</p> <p>Plus two (2) of the following, if not taken above:            THA 340 Improvisation            THO 220 Latin American Dance Forms            THO 320 Western Dance Styles            THF 201 Timelines of Performance History II            THF 316 The Global Stage            THF 325 Musical Theatre            THF 403 Landmarks in Canadian Theatre            THF 405 Human Development in the Arts</p>

**Recommendation**

- Having satisfied itself of the merit of this proposal, ASC recommends: *That Senate approve the **Elimination of the Performance Studies Module - School of Creative Industries, Faculty of Communication and Design***

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Moshé, Chair for the Committee

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