

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE

MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Submitted By

DELAWARE COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE
STUART BARON, PRESIDENT
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The Delaware College of Art and Design appreciates and accepts the team report and welcomes the criticisms, challenges, and acknowledgments presented by the visiting team in its report. The team members were thorough in gathering information and opinions from all members of the DCAD community, including the chairman of our Boards of Overseers and Directors. Whether in small or larger gatherings or individually, the team was able to observe the high level of dedication and passion for the College that exists among all constituents, a continuing hallmark and source of pride within the institution.

The College readily accepts all recommendations, requirements, and suggestions and began to work on them even as the team was still on campus. The culture of assessment has grown steadily over the last year, and we continue to refine our processes to conform to and satisfy all MSCHE expectations.

There is one suggestion to which the College wishes to respond. The team wrote, in reference to Standard 2, Suggestions, “The team suggests that DCAD consider removing the distraction of the possibility of moving from a 2 to 4 year BFA from the Strategic Plan at this time.” In fact, the Revised Strategic Plan 2008-2013 Matrix states, “Complete [sic] 2010. Assessment to pursue four-year program – college not ready at this stage, will reconsider in the future”. This was specifically not removed in the revision as an example of an initiative being thoroughly *investigated* (data gathered) and *assessed* by a faculty committee in conjunction with Administration, and remains in the Matrix indicating the *measurements* and *outcomes* (rejection of the possibility). The president informed the Board in December of 2009 that no further consideration of such a development is advisable and should be removed from further discussion if and until circumstances or a market study indicates advisability, if ever, and that DCAD should focus on its niche as a two-year independent and unique school of art and design. The question and initiative will not be included in the next strategic plan scheduled for development concurrent to and following the impending five-year review. The Commission is hereby assured that the idea is no longer under consideration and is no longer a distraction.

Because of the robust investigation by the team, we are pleased that no other factual questions remain.

DCAD accepted the monitoring report and the team's visit as opportunities to evaluate all aspects of the College's effectiveness. The recommendations, requirements, and suggestions are those

that are taken to heart and provide action items to which everyone here can dedicate time and energies. The Delaware College of Art and Design is a small school with limited human resources but with great capacity for agility and assiduous work. We appreciate the efforts of the team and their insights to provide additional incentives for further accountability. The team members should be commended for being highly professional, concise, collegial, and helpful in their work and interactions with everyone at DCAD. The entire College was impressed by team members' intentions and careful examinations that led to the requirements, recommendations, and suggestions in the report. We expect to complete the challenges the report offers in an efficacious and timely manner. The Delaware College of Art and Design, its faculty, administrative staff, and Boards fully expect that the next report will satisfy all requirements of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education standards for accreditation.

The College wishes to thank the team and the Commission for their diligence on its behalf.