PERFORMANCE ARTS/DIGITAL FILMMAKING
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Minutes
June 15, 2010
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Board Room, 1000 Building

Present:
George Watt, Tony Doupe, Mary Bonar, Dave Cunningham, Jesse Ross, Kris Boustedt, Ruth Gregory, David Johanson Vasquez, Brian Rockwell, Amanda Harryman

Minutes, Roster and Agenda were distributed with approval of minutes.

Tony Doupe started meeting with summary of Agenda, and how the agenda is a reflection of how the year has progressed for the program.

Information: Year in Review – Ruth Gregory gave a very succinct and written report (included) regarding the activities in the program. Approval of the new two-year degree and articulation with CWU as well as student highlights:

In the past year we’ve had a really great group of students who’ve volunteered and interned at:
- The Seattle Community Access Network (SCAN)
- Reel Queer
- Seattle International Film Festival
And worked on several professional film shoots including:
- Perfect 10, a 2010 SIFF selection
- My Lucky Day, a 2010 SIFF selection
- Photo Booth, an Independent Filmmaker Project award winner
- Betty, an Independent Filmmaker Project award winner & 2010 SIFF selection

Our students participated in:
- The International Documentary Challenge where they made a great piece about the Japanese internment during World War II in just 5 days.
- The 24 Hour Film Challenge, where they dared to try and make a film in 1 day and almost finished, but still had a great time.
- The Power of Hope’s Monologue project during Winter quarter.
- One student screened her work at the 2009 Seattle Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.
- The first ever Shoreline Cinematheque, a screening of student-produced video work and
- **13 Shoreline Shorts**, original theatrical plays written, directed, and produced by SCC students
- *The work from the Cinematheque will be airing on SCAN later in the summer*
- *This summer our students are shooting webisodes and creating commercials for the college that will be housed in our own online “station.”*

**Discussion:** The program feels that the key to growth is exposure to professionals and bringing them to campus to work with students. However, how to pay guest artists, and how to obtain funding to support students? Right now, student club funding is only about $6,000 and supports productions as well. How to obtain stipends for guests, loosen up funds within the hiring freeze? What about the artists and lecture series that students used to fund – how to get that back? Dave C. asked how much money would make a significant difference? Tony thought about $15K. Even in the production classes, it was helpful to have pros come in and teach how to use the equipment, students have access, less intimidating for students to go out into the working world after pros come in – gives them confidence.

Tony felt that the program is working in survival mode- getting by but not growing. The program needs to grow with personnel, and to keep the program growing by bringing people in to get the students out. Overall, the program equipment is getting better. Dave C. mentioned that the program could get creative with how funding might work. Brainstorm how the degree incorporates the connections that students need to be competitive with the access to regional industry. Building a new facility just isn’t possible – are there other ways to grow? Maybe look at partnering with (SIFF) for screening.

TO DO: Dave C. will look into some funding through Perkins – to support the guest speakers, workshops and professionals for next year.

David JV asked about using former students for contacts, bring them back to classes; Amanda H. – asked if students already come back to the program to give updates, more classes? She suggested a partnership with a local rental house to get students exposed! Rent equipment that we can get hands-on training.

Ruth also brought up activities for students to get exposure to the industry such as Austin Screenwriting Festival – the place to pitch screenplays for work. Amanda recalls several years ago that students with the Film Club did attend Slamdance. Maybe set up Scholarships for students to go somewhere and Dave C thought that the SCC Foundation could help set up/with that.

**Action/Discussion Item:** Continued brainstorming ideas for revenue generation and how to make money to support the program. Brian R suggested a Film Festival – it would be a year long organized process with submissions taken from all over (not just students) and film festivals usually help with distribution of films. Dave C. mentioned that hiring an hourly to organize but where would the money go to support the program? Dave C encouraged program to create an
outline and proposal, get Shoreline Arts Council, the City, and others to get involved which would serve to marketing the program and department. Students could help organize as well.

Ruth noted from her experience that Film Festivals can be expensive and may cost more than they make. However, Prescreening could be a way to go – (usually films are prescreened before official releases) by renting theatres to create buzz about films. Dave C noted to use the advisory committee to put together and organize. The Arts Council could help motivate or could there be a class to help organize the film festival? Need some facilitation by outside help (paid) but students could help create business plan and action plan.

Ruth spoke to her experience with the Social Justice Film Festival project. Project was a wide variety of topics that was for a non profit but broke even. Our theater sound system has to be upgraded however screen is fine, and projection and possibly renting HD decks for screening. She met with Edwin Vine earlier in the fall for discussion about collaboration for future projects.

David JV asked what do our students want to do with film? Faculty replied that narrative is majority. He asked about Cutting edge or Experimental filmmaking? Faculty responded with only a two year program – they don’t have a lot of experience. Suggestion to use a film festival to create angle – variety.

What about a Theater Arts festival? Maybe the film festival market is saturated. Cinevegas, Children’s Theater program, Edinburgh Fringe festival – maybe create an IPAC?

Information: Current summer projects include two SCC commercials and webisodes for SCC.

Shoreline Shorts will be aired on Shoreline TV. Webisodes will be posted as well as new website with launch as well this summer.

Students getting jobs – but also entrepreneurs. So not all students leave the program to get jobs – some go on to school. Dave C mentioned how coding will be improved to track our students.

TO DO: Mary B is working on tracking the students current in the program, but wants to work with the Workforce/Prof Tech office to do a better job for tracking employed students.

David JV noted that the Glaziers Photo Show was an excellent venue to see new equipment and how it is being used in the industry.

Dave C was very encouraging to the group to use their innate nonlinear thinking to solve traditional problems. He was very positive that our students are better prepared in the work force because of their abilities to work through nonlinear problem solving and encouraged the group to grow similar to other successful programs on campus like the Automotive Center where industry supports the students, the facility and
As filmmakers and actors sometimes it is easy to get caught up in all the projects that you didn’t do or could have done in any given timeframe. So every once and awhile we like to reflect back and think about all the things that we did do in order to feel at least a little self-satisfied. Thus, we give you the “State of the Performing Arts and Digital Filmmaking Program Address for 2009 – 2010.”

The biggest news is that on July 1st our Applied Associates of Arts and Sciences in Digital Film Technology will be publically available after a year and a half of hard work. The degree is a comprehensive introduction to film and video production laced with a lot of academic coursework. We also have an articulation agreement in place with Central Washington University so students can complete the last two years of their bachelor there after starting their collegiate journey with us at Shoreline Community College. We are ridiculously excited to have our own degree pathway in our department.

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We had two active clubs this year – the Film Club and the Sisterhood of Women in the Film Industry (SWIFI). The latter of which helped to spark wider discussion in the department about gender inequity behind the camera and, also, helped to begin to make connections with the Music Tech program.
We have students transferring or who have transferred to:
- Central Washington University
- University of Washington
- The Art Institute of Seattle
- The Brooklyn Film Institute in LA
- Biola University
- University of California, Northridge
- New York University

Our students are getting out there in the world as well:
- One has been offered a job at Radio Korea in Los Angeles
- Another is the lead in the Everett Musical Theater’s production of *Little Shop of Horrors*
- Six of our acting students who have graduate in the past year have found professional representation in Seattle.

We’ve hosted amazing guest artists including documentary filmmakers:
- Angelica Macklin
- John Siro, Director of *Iraq in Frags*

Independent Filmmakers:
- Brian Rockwell
- Boa Tran
- Timothy Watkins
- Anthony Deptula

Playwright Marcus Goodwin

Representatives from local non-profit groups:
- The Common Language Project from UW
- The Seattle International Film Festival
- $3 Bill Cinema who produce the Seattle Gay and Lesbian Film Festival
- Native Lens

One of the highlights of the year was when Lynn Shelton, a locally-based, but internationally known, writer and director came to campus and allowed us to screen her newest work *$5 Cover: Seattle*. The web series was produced by MTV New Media and showcased a slew of amazing local bands. The proceeds from the door went into a new foundation scholarship fund that we will be giving out next spring to encourage underrepresented voices to step behind the camera.

And these are only the things that we remembered in the last 24 hours or knew about. It is with great honor that we close the 2009 – 2010 school year with so many wonderful things accomplished. We look forward to napping over the summer and ramping up for all the great things that 2010 – 2011 will bring! ‘Til then it’s a wrap.