

November 10, 2017

Nancy Bauer
Dean of Academic Affairs, School of Arts and Sciences
Tufts University
230 The Fenway
Boston, MA 02115

Dear Dean Bauer:

Thank you for submitting your application for review by the NASAD Commission on Accreditation. The Commission, at its October 2017 meetings, took action on the institution's application.

Please find enclosed a Commission Action Report describing this action in detail. This report contains information of note and, if applicable, any requests for further information from the Commission. Please note the Association's policy regarding *Disclosure and Confidentiality*, a copy of which has been enclosed.

This action is taken based upon a review of Tufts University according to the NASAD accreditation standards in effect in October 2017.

The institution, seeking accreditation with NASAD, is asked to participate in reviews and revisions to the NASAD *Handbook*, and is reminded to maintain its operations and programs current with NASAD standards as these are developed and approved.

The Commission on Accreditation and the Association appreciate the institution's efforts with regard to its application, and its careful consideration of and attention to NASAD accreditation standards and guidelines. Further, the Commission and Association appreciate the work accomplished by the institution on behalf of the visual arts and design and higher education.

Please contact the NASAD National Office staff if you have questions, or need assistance with regard to this action or any other aspect of the work of the Association.

We offer congratulations on your achievements and best wishes for the continuing success of the institution. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Karen P. Moynahan
Executive Director
KPM:jk
Enclosure

cc: Anthony P. Monaco, President
Tufts University

National Association of Schools of Art and Design
11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21
Reston, Virginia 20190-5248

COMMISSION ACTION REPORT

This document provides the official action of the Commission as indicated in the cover letter of the same date.

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TUFTS UNIVERSITY
School of Arts and Sciences

Actions:

Action 1 of 2: Application for Membership – Original

The Commission voted to grant Membership with the degree and program listing indicated below.

The Commission requests a Progress Report addressing the issues cited below.

NASAD Degree and Program Listing:

- Bachelor of Arts-4 years: Art History.
- Bachelor of Fine Arts-4 years: Studio Art.
- Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Fine Arts-5 years: Studio Art.
- Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Fine Arts-5 years: Studio Art.
- Certificate-1 year: Studio Art (Post-Baccalaureate).
- Diploma-2 ½ years: Studio Arts (Post-Baccalaureate).
- Master of Arts-1 year: Teaching (Art Education).
- Master of Arts-2 years: Art History; Art History and Museum Studies.
- Master of Fine Arts-2 years: Studio Art.
- ◆ Continuing Education Program.

Next Full Review:

2022-2023 Academic Year

Items for Progress Report:

The Commission notes that the institution has made extraordinary progress in finalizing the merger between the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, a charter member of NASAD, and Tufts University. The Visitors' Report noted, and the institution acknowledged throughout the Self-Study and Optional Response documents, that significant work remains to be done to meld the two organizations effectively. Processes already in place promise to resolve outstanding issues; accordingly, the Commission requests a Progress Report addressing the issues cited below.

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1. **Mission and Strategic Planning:** The institution indicated in the Self-Study (p. 13) that it will reconsider the mission statement and objectives for each curricular program acquired in the merger with the School of the Museum of Fine Arts and develop a new Strategic Plan. The institution is requested to provide further information describing the results of this reconsideration and planning process (see *NASAD Handbook 2016-17*, Standards for Accreditation, II.A.).
2. **Credit and Time:** Concurrent with the incorporation of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts into institutional management, operational, and academic structures and practices at Tufts University, the institution is planning a change in the way it assigns course credit by the start of the fall 2018 semester. Although the current system is not consistent across all programs, the institution does meet the spirit of the relevant NASAD standards and acknowledges its commitment to further study before implementation (see Optional Response, pp. 9-10; see *NASAD Handbook 2016-17*, Standards for Accreditation III.A.2.). The institution is asked to provide an update on the findings of the study and a plan and timetable for implementation. Progress on the alignment of class block schedules should be included.
3. **Facilities:** The institution has made significant progress in addressing facilities needs on the original School of the Museum of Fine Arts campus; plans are under way to relocate art facilities on the Tufts University campus to a new location. The institution is asked to provide information about the new facilities on Tufts University's Medford campus, slated for utilization during the fall 2019 semester, with particular regard to NASAD standards relating to health and safety, as well as on the appropriateness of these facilities for the type and level of instruction provided in them (see Optional Response, p. 5). In addition, the institution shall report on the status of space and facilities on the original School of the Museum of Fine Arts campus slated for possible reclamation by the Museum of Fine Arts, an option that must be exercised no later than July 1, 2018, and the impact of any reduction of available space on program offerings at that site (see Visitors' Report, pp. 9-10, 28; Optional Response, pp. 5, 8).
4. **Faculty Appointments:** The institution has made great strides in integrating the faculty of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts into the Tufts University faculty appointments structure. The Commission notes that there is ongoing discussion and study relative to the requirements for tenure-stream faculty appointments in art (see Self-Study, pp. 36-37), and wishes to remind the institution that the Master of Fine Arts is recognized nationally as the terminal degree in studio practice (see *NASAD Handbook 2016-17*, Standards for Accreditation II.E.1.b.(3) and (4)). The institution is asked to report on progress in securing appropriate changes in university policy to recognize the Master of Fine Arts as the qualifying credential for faculty in creative practice, and in resolving any remaining discrepancies between categories of arts faculty at the newly-configured School of the Museum of Fine Arts unit. This effort will support the institution's considerable efforts to ensure equity among faculty colleagues.
5. **Governance Structures:** The Commission requests an update on the finalization and documentation of revised governance structures (see Self-Study, p. 34).



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6. Status and Future of Non-Degree Programs: The School of the Museum of Fine Arts has a long and significant history of offering strong non-degree programs in art and design. Declining enrollment in recent years caused the institution to begin closely examining the role these programs play in the institution's mission and futures planning. The Commission requests further information on the status of, and future plans for, non-degree programs in art and design (see Self-Study, pp. 64, 75; Visitors' Report, p. 13).
7. The Commission notes that the institution offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in Architectural Studies that is listed on the university's website. This program was not included in the Self-Study and, therefore, it is not clear whether it falls within NASAD purview (see NASAD *Handbook 2016-17*, Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II, Article I, Section 3.). The Commission requests further information describing the intent and content of the Architectural Studies program in order to determine whether it should be evaluated according to NASAD standards.

Action 2 of 2: Application for Basic Listing

The Commission voted to grant Basic Listing for the following program:

- ◆ Continuing Education Program.

Due Date:

September 1 for consideration at the Commission meetings of October 2018.

The Procedures for Submitting Responses and Progress Reports may be downloaded from the NASAD website at <https://nasad.arts-accredit.org> (see "Accreditation," beneath that "Accreditation Materials," and beneath that "Procedures").

Notes:

1. The Commission notes that the Bachelor of Arts-4 years: Film and Media Studies and the Bachelor of Arts-4 years: International Literacy and Visual Studies do not appear to fall under the purview of NASAD as neither degree currently appears to require sufficient content in art and design. Therefore, the Commission has taken no action regarding these programs (see NASAD *Handbook 2016-17*, Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II, Article I, Section 3.).
2. The Commission notes that the programs, Certificate in Continuing Education-1 year: Graphic Design; Illustration have been reviewed but will not be listed in NASAD publications in accordance with the Association's listing policy. It appears that these certificates currently fall below the 30 semester-hour credit threshold for listing. These programs may be listed in the institution's published materials. No action has been taking regarding these programs and no further information is requested at this time. Should these programs be altered to require coursework above this threshold as part of

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the comprehensive review of Continuing Education and/or as part of revisions to overall credit structure, as noted in the Self-Study, the institution is asked to submit them for Plan Approval (see NASAD *Handbook 2016-17*, Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II, Article I, Section 3.; Appendix III.B., Section 7).

3. The Commission notes that changes to the admissions goals for the Master of Fine Arts degree program, coupled with improvements to the Mission Hill building, have substantially addressed major concerns included in the Visitors' Report (p. 9) relative to health and safety; in addition, these changes will also, over time, contribute to alleviating faculty workload concerns (see Optional Response, p. 6).
4. In accordance with provisions outlined in the Commission Action Report dated May 31, 2016, given this affirmative action to grant accreditation to Tufts University, NASAD will amend its Directory List to include Tufts University and remove the listing for the School of the Museum of Fine Arts.

Commendation:

The Commission commends Tufts University, and particularly its School of Arts and Sciences, on the collaborative efforts to fully and effectively merge the programs, principles, and philosophy of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts into Tufts University's existing structure and future plans. The Commission also commends the institution on its efforts to begin to unite faculty, staff, students, and Boards. The formal joining of two strong, independent institutions, after many years of collaborative work, appears to have been accomplished both capably and sensitively. In particular, the financial and human investments in facilities improvements, faculty appointments, admissions and financial aid, and strategic planning initiatives are significant and deserving of commendation. The institution's thorough understanding and acknowledgement of the challenges that remain and its commitment to ongoing collegial efforts to resolve them appear to promise excellent outcomes for all involved.

Karen P. Moynahan
Executive Director

KPM:jk