

DEPARTMENT OF SCULPTUREQUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLANSEPTEMBER 2009**1. Academic Matters/Research/Postgraduate Studies**

Recommendation in Peer Review Group Report	Department Action to recommendation	Faculty Action to recommendation	Responsibility	Time-frame / Status (From - to)	Issues for Decision by An Bord (if applicable) / Management Response
1.1. There is a need to ensure that the potential of modularization is fully exploited.	The potential of modularisation is that it can build sequential learning which supports interdisciplinary activity. The Department supports modularisation and will work with the Modularisation Committee and the College to develop clear structures to harness this potential. Timetabling of modules and staff hours as well as induction for students are key to the development.	Faculty proposed moving elective module to more suitable time at the end of the first term – this was agreed.	Academic Staff/ Modularisation Committee/College	In progress - in tandem with new initiatives	.
1.2. The PRG recommends that the college supports further exploration of shared teaching and learning between Sculpture and Visual Culture.	Sculpture agrees with this recommendation and proposes a formal forum be established where Fine Art/Sculpture and Visual Culture can discuss shared teaching and learning strategies	Faculty works closely with Visual Culture in preparation of exhibition/exams & ACW. There is a pilot project in Media examining practice & theory in 3 rd year.	Head of Fine Art Faculty and Head of Visual Culture Faculty	Academic Session 2009/2010	
1.3. Skills and Knowledge around materials could be more strongly contextualised.	Sculpture agrees but notes that our graduates this year demonstrated a sophisticated relationship to materiality which was varied and inventive in its sourcing manipulation and deployment. The continuing development and emphasis on specific aspects of projects will allow greater contextualization. There are also however, questions of space and student economy at issue. We are making improvements in production and manipulation ability to embrace computer driven technology advanced in other parts of the college and hope this can be supported.	Workshops have been re-figured with new computer and sound room.	Head of Sculpture / Sculpture lecturers and Technical Officers	Review and planning sessions September 2009	

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1.4. A number of graduates suggested that a 'Professional practice' module would benefit greatly from being more discipline-specific.	Sculpture believes that professional practice should be, and is, integrated into all elements of the course. This is perhaps more implicit than explicit and could be more clearly articulated within each module outline and the student handbook.	Head of Faculty takes responsibility for delivering this module in 2009/10.	Head of Sculpture/ Sculpture lecturers	Student Handbook 2009/10 and review & planning session September 2009	
1.5. The Department should continue to negotiate the relationship between the virtual and the material to reflect the changing landscape and the use of technology.	Sculpture is in the process of re-aligning our workshops and digital capacity. We are seeking to develop computer-driven large cutting capacity to segue into other computer capacities in the college and give students a bridge /platform.	Realignment of workshops underway.	Head of Department/ Technical Officers Senior management	Short-term. Over the next six months to March 2010.	
1.6. The PRG suggest that Sculpture and Media continue to pursue their productive relationship.	Collaborations between Media and Sculpture have been initiated. Shared projects can provide different pathways for students. We can build further initiatives in keeping with College strategic developments.	Inter-departmental collaboration led by Faculty office.	Head of Sculpture/ Sculpture lecturers	Short-term. Academic Session 2009/2010.	
1.7. Further opportunities for peer learning should be exploited both within and across levels.	Sculpture supports this recommendation and will look at how postgraduates and undergraduates can benefit from each others experiences.	In the past postgraduates have been employed and Faculty will support this recommendation.	Head of Sculpture/ Sculpture lecturers	In progress. Academic Session 2009/2010.	
1.8. There is a need to improve on the time it takes to mark and provide feedback on student assignments.	The Department notes that modular documents are more complex to fill in. The Department will streamline its assessment procedures. However change has been implemented.	Documents need to be streamlined – Faculty will review documents and procedures in 2009/10.	Head of Sculpture	Student Handbook 2009/10 and review & planning session September 2009	

1. Academic Matters – Research

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1.9.1. Staff need to document outcomes of high level practice-based research and should be supported to disseminate those outcomes.	This is a key component of College organisation and publicity. The Research Committee is currently looking at research metrics. A database of research interests could be developed following the metrics outcomes.	Faculty collates research interests and outcomes annually.	The Research Committee/ College management	Long-term over the next four years	
1.9.2. The Department should exploit every possible avenue to source funding for staff research.	These are questions of time, opportunity, information distribution.		Head of Research/ Staff Development Committee	In progress/ long-term	
1.9.3. Internal communications might be improved to ensure that all staff and postgraduate students are aware of potential sources of both external and internal funding.	Communication of various opportunities for both staff and students has improved over the past two years, however there remains a need for a central source of information and clear and systematic dissemination of information protocols.	A professional practice lecture supplies all funding sources available in the state – lecture is delivered by Head of Faculty.	College management	In progress/ long-term	
1.9.4. There is a need to ensure that research informs practice in teaching and learning i.e. that there is an integration of research and teaching and learning.	See 1.9.1. If a central database of research interests was developed, this could link to learning and teaching initiatives already in place. Thematic projects and modules could be developed. Research experience inevitably refreshes and informs aspects of teaching and learning.	As in 1.9.1.	College	Long-term development	
1.9.5. Intellectual Property protocols need to be put in place.	I.P. protocols were published on the NCAD intranet page on information for staff on 11 th May 2009.		College management	Implemented May 2009	
1.9.6. The College should consider setting up a College-wide ethics committee.	An Ethics Committee is being convened and Sculpture would like to offer to have a representative on the committee.	Head of Faculty has spoken to the Head of Research on the need for this in September 2009.	College management	Academic Session 2009/2010 and thereafter.	

1. Academic Matters – Postgraduate Studies

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1.10.1. The Department should exploit every possible avenue to source funding for postgraduate students.	Communication structures must be put in place to source and share such information, both within the Department and through administrative systems.	The Head of Faculty researches funding opportunities on a case by case basis.	Head of Sculpture/ Head of Faculty/ College Management	Structures set-up in the short term (2010) and then followed through long-term.	
1.10.2. The College and the Department should continue to work towards a situation whereby postgraduate students will play a role in supporting the teaching of undergraduate students as is common across other HEI'S subject to agreement with relevant unions.	The Department is very keen to pilot this process and have identified two immediate and obvious areas. Sculpture has an appropriate post-graduate cluster from which to develop this initiative. The Department will explore what studentships are available.	Postgraduates are involved in trips and in seminars.	Head of Sculpture/ Union representative/ College management	From October 2009	Initiative should be agreed by An Bord and Academic Council.
1.10.3. The PRG supports the recommendation within the SAR for further discussion on the relationships of the various masters courses and the synergies, potential common admission, examination processes and course lengths.	Discussions are underway within the context of the NCAD Strategic Plan 2008-2012 and new course proposals but require consistent attention.	We have (for example) proposed changes to the MA ACW exam and exhibition.	College Management Masters Staff	Discussions taking place from March 2009 with long-term implementation by 2012.	
1.10.4. The College and the Department should ensure that strong recruitment processes are in place to attract high-quality postgraduates from elsewhere.	The College and Department see the learning opportunities available at NCAD as dynamic and unique and will ensure that our identity and activities are disseminated through our website, our publications and our collaborations with other institutions.	The College exhibition strategy is to bring all postgraduate & undergraduate shows under one roof to showcase student work.	College Management/ Head of Sculpture	Ongoing	

2. External Activities

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2.1. The College and the Department must use every opportunity to publicise and celebrate the high level of external activity, and the contribution of current and past students and staff to the field of contemporary art practice.	The College is publicising its identity and that of current and past students and staff through the new gallery, increased showing spaces, publications, involvement in the Venice Biennale and numerous other activities. As in 1.10.1 communication structures must be continued to be established to capture and disseminate the results of these activities.	Twice-yearly reports are collected by Faculty Board.	Head of Department/ Head of Faculty/ College Management	Ongoing	

3. Facilities and Resources

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3.1. PRG supports the Department idea to develop a flexible and mobile resource that would further some of the ambitions and activities of the Department.	Circulate documentation more widely. Find out how this may meet college research bids in a changing landscape.	Funding implications	Head of Department	Academic session 2009-2010	Sculpture will submit funding applications under Quality Improvement
3.2. The PRG noted that the Resin room is currently being used as a secure storage and presentation space for applicants' portfolios. It recommends that an alternative location should be found for these portfolios so as not to interrupt the academic progression of students in the Sculpture Department.	Sculpture hopes that alternative locations are being sought for the application and portfolio process each year and looks forward to a more equitable solution than has been the case in recent years.	Head of Faculty has continually raised this issue with College	Head of Department/ Head of Faculty/ College Management	For consideration – status quo as of Autumn 2009/10	
3.3. The Sculpture Department urgently requires additional space for the presentation of large- and small-scale work in progress. This try-out space could possibly be accommodated within the atrium or resin room.	Sculpture intends to progress this recommendation quickly and if appropriate will draw up simple plans to accommodate a “white cube” in the Atrium space	The Atrium re-fit is under consideration.	Head of Department	July 2009 – March 2010	Sculpture will submit funding applications under Quality Improvement
3.4. The PRG supports the SAR recommendation to identify a space for a “clean room”.	Space for a clean room has been identified in the workshop. The department will be seeking funding to appropriately fit-out the room. Substantial progress has been made in creating the facility.	A “clean room” has been completed	Head of Department/ Technical Officers	July 2009 – March 2010	Sculpture will submit funding applications under Quality Improvement
3.5. Recognising the relative scarcity of space overall in NCAD, the PRG suggests that use of existing space in the Department of Sculpture (including the more flexible use of storage space) be investigated to improve the working environment and to optimize the use of space.	Improved storage space has been identified in the realigned workshop and is in the process of modification and improvement. The department will be seeking funding to appropriately fit-out the room.	This is complete.	Head of Department/ Technical Officers	By December 2009	Sculpture will submit funding applications under Quality Improvement

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3.6. There may be a need for senior management to clarify, and define more clearly, the access to and use of some shared spaces in the College e.g. the space known as "the shed".	Sculpture would not only welcome clarification but would also value input into the discussion to identify areas of usage and timetabling of such usage.	This will be raised by Faculty at Senior Management meeting	Senior Management/ Head of Department	Clarification and timetable agreed by December 2009	
3.7. There is an urgent need for some administrative support to relieve academic staff (in particular the Head) and to facilitate the ongoing development of external relationships and off-campus activities.	This continues to be a pressing need. Sculpture understands that there is a moratorium on new appointments and would like to propose the possibility of re-organisation of existing supports and the potential for student work as some areas of College already provide (e.g. Library student shelvers).	Faculty proposes that studentships be offered for this.	College Management and within the context of the NCAD Strategic Plan		
3.8. The problem of the external studio doors needs to be resolved in order to facilitate vehicular access and better use of space.	Sculpture would like this issue examined and progressed. It is potentially an H & S issue fire exit and of college security. It appears outstanding amongst other general improvements to granary access / appearance.		Head of Department/ Technical Officers/ Health & Safety Committee		Sculpture will submit funding applications under Quality Improvement and Health and Safety
3.9. The installation of an effective extraction system in the sculpture workshop is a matter of priority and is a Health and Safety concern.	This issue has been highlighted in the risk document and remains pressing.	This has been raised four times by the Head of Faculty with Senior Management as a Health and Safety issue in 2000, 2001, 2007 & 2009.	Head of Department/ Technical Officers/ Health & Safety Committee		Sculpture will submit funding applications under Health and Safety

4. Communication

Recommendation in Peer Review Group Report	Department Action to recommendation	Faculty Action to recommendation	Responsibility	Time-frame / Status (From - to)	Issues for Decision by An Bord (if applicable) / Management Response
4.1. While the PRG is aware that the mechanisms are in place for the involvement of students in College structures, from the SAR it would appear that this is not fully exploited by Sculpture students and the PRG recommend student participation on college fora and at meetings.	Students are encouraged to participate on college fora and at meetings. The value of their input could be more clearly outlined in the student handbook, the prospectus and other publications. The annual student exit survey also provides a forum for feedback but it is not clear how dissemination of information on actions taken as a result of the students' feedback occurs. This can occur through action and briefing. The students of the department are regular bearers of office within the students union.	Faculty encourages the use of current procedures and offices.	Head of Department/ Head of Faculty/ Faculty Board	In progress and ongoing	
4.2. There is room for improvement in internal college communications e.g. staff and students need access to information regarding research grants and funding etc.	As in 1.9.3. Communication of various opportunities for both staff and students has improved over the past two years, however there remains a need for a central source of information and clear and systematic dissemination of information protocols.	A central sources is there and functioning.	College management	In progress/ long-term	
4.3. The College and the Department should publicise and celebrate the high level of external activity and contribution of current and past students and staff to the field of contemporary art practice.	The College is publicising its identity and that of current and past students and staff through the new gallery, increased showing spaces, publications, involvement in the Venice Biennale and numerous other activities. As in 1.10.1 College communication structures must be better/further established to capture and disseminate the results of these activities. At present these are processed through Departmental reports for Faculty Board.	Faculty reports to Academic Council and to An Bord.	Head of Department/ Head of Faculty/ College Management	Ongoing	

5. Staff Development

Recommendation in Peer Review Group Report	Department Action to recommendation	Faculty Action to recommendation	Responsibility	Time-frame / Status (From - to)	Issues for Decision by An Bord (if applicable) / Management Response
5.1. At a time of rapid change and in an era of life-long learning, it is important that staff (academic and technical) are encouraged and supported by Senior Management to avail of every opportunity to develop their skills across the range of their responsibilities i.e. teaching and learning, research, practice.	In the first instance, the Department of Sculpture will investigate the creation of a staff forum to share learning and identify needs and possibilities.	Staff are fully supported in teaching & learning, research and practice by Faculty policy.	Head of Department/ QA/QI Office/ Head of Research/	Forum set up within the academic session 2009/2010. The database/matrix could develop from this forum as a longer-term project in collaboration with the QA/QI Office/HR and Research	
5.2. Opportunities should be encouraged for sharing the impressive expertise of staff in Sculpture with others (and vice versa).	There is potential to grow a skills and expertise database of Sculpture staff which may be of use to other areas within College and to avail of a reciprocal arrangement. The Department believes that opportunities are available through joint modules, shared workshops and clear communication lines. The development of a skills base would also be of huge benefit to a collegial sharing of expertise.	Staff lectures held on Thursday afternoon are one existing way of sharing staff expertise.	Head of Department/ Sculpture staff/ QA/QI Office/ Head of Research/ Human Resources Office	Long-term to 2012.	