

# **Proposal to Eliminate Academic Program**

## **Pursuant to UW Regulation 6-43**

### **BA Secondary Education: Art Education**

#### **Statement of the reasons for elimination of the program:**

The Art Ed program at UW is currently offered as a concurrent major with the Visual Art Department in the College of Arts and Sciences. The degree offering has a well-established reputation for quality in the state of Wyoming. It has also suffered low program enrollments over a period of many years with enrollments in recent years trending even lower. Of the total number of UW graduates in Art Education, 80% are teaching in Wyoming schools. As with other UW degree programs, the Art Education degree is the only four-year art education degree available in the state of Wyoming. The direct instructional expenditure per FTE student is about 50% higher in Art Education than is the average degree cost in the College of Education. Nearly 80% of art education courses offered meet university minimums for section size.

Taken together, the persistent low enrollments in the Art Education program and the availability of an Art major in the Art Department argue for a consistent approach in the university for addressing fine arts education. Music has its own, self-contained teacher education program. Art, on the other hand, has a concurrent major program shared with the College of Education. Consequently, we believe that in the case where low enrollment programs are found in the College of Education such as in Art Education, a model where the content department – here the Art Department in the College of Arts and Sciences - teaches the methods courses and other certification courses are offered through the College of Education.

We recommend a program termination request be submitted to the Board of Trustees this academic year.

The Secondary Education Department and College of Education will work with the Department of Art investigate the possibility of the Art faculty teaching and developing the course work needed to support an option for their students to become K-12<sup>th</sup> grade art educators. This arrangement would be similar to the Music Education Major in the Department of Music

#### **Description of the program and relevant data:**

##### **Describe the mission, curriculum, content and format of the program:**

The goal of the art education program at UW is to produce art educators who are innovators and leaders in the teaching field as well as accomplished artists. All graduates receive a Bachelor's Degree in Art Education (grades K-12) and a concurrent major in Art. A concurrent major will ensure that graduates are "highly qualified" teachers and will expand career possibilities.

The program includes courses in pedagogy, teaching methods, special education, and art

with an ongoing emphasis on interdisciplinary connections between art and other subjects. Authentic classroom experiences are embedded throughout the program. During the EDSE 4500 residency course, students will spend half of their experience at an elementary school and half at a secondary school. Graduates will have the confidence, knowledge, and experience to teach art at the elementary, middle school, and high school level.

Curriculum, content, format:

There are three ways to become an Art Education major. Students can enroll at UW as freshman, completing all of their educational requirements on the UW Laramie campus. Students can enter the program as juniors upon completion of an associate's degree from various community colleges across the state/nation.

Once completed the Art Education Bachelor's degree leads to certification to teach in the state of Wyoming by the Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board.

The third way to complete the Art Education content, we offer a Post- Baccalaureate Program that will lead to initial Wyoming teacher certification. The credits earned in this program can also be applied to a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, if you choose to pursue a graduate degree.

Courses specific to the major and specializations are as follows:

Course Number	Name	Credit Hours
<b>Professional Education Requirements</b>		
EDST 2450	Foundations of Development & Learning	3
ITEC 2360	Teaching with Technology	3
EDST 2480	Diversity & Politics of Schooling	4
EDEX 2484	Introduction to Special Education	3
EDST 3000	Teacher as Practitioner	6
EDST 3550	Educational Assessment	2
EDSE 3272/4272	Art Education Methods I/II	3/4
EDSE 4500	Residency in Teaching	15-16
<b>Art Major Content Requirements</b>		
ART 1005	Beginning Drawing	3
ART 1110	Foundation I, 2D	3
ART 1115	Digital Media	1
ART 1120	Foundation II, 3D	3
ART 1130	Foundation III, Color	3
ART 2000	Portfolio Review	1
ART 2305	Techniques Wood/Mixed Media	1
ART 2005	Drawing II	3
ART 2210	Painting I	3
ART 1310	Intro to Sculpture	3
ART 2410/2420	Ceramics I or Ceramics II	3
ART 2112	Graphic Design	3
ART 2255	Intro to Photo, Digital	3
ART 2265	Intro to Photo, B/W	3

ART	2350	Metalsmithing	3
ART	2010	Art History Survey I	3
ART	2020	Art History Survey II	3
ART	3510	Printmaking	3
ART	XXXX	Upper Division Electives	6

**Describe the role of the program within the context of the college and the mission of the University:**

The Art Education program aligns well with the mission of the University in the respect to UW's commitment to service. The mission states there is an understanding that the greatest service is to provide the state and nation with teachers. This is also recognized as one of the mission's guiding principles when it comes to serving the needs of the state.

The Art Education student numbers affect the course enrollments in EDST 2450 - Foundations of Development & Learning, ITEC 2360- Teaching with Technology, EDST 2480 – Diversity & Politics of Schooling, EDEX-2484 Introduction to Special Education, EDST 3000 – Teacher as Practitioner, and EDST 3550 as well as the course enrollments for the art content courses required for the dual degree listed in the table above.

**Financial data relevant to the academic program:**

Ratio of student credit hours per FTE: **108 student credit hours: 1 faculty**

Direct instructional expenditures:

- i. **Per student credit hour: \$ 659** per student credit hour In 2015-16, six degrees were awarded. Salary/degrees)
- ii. **Per total degrees awarded: \$11, 866** per degree (In 2015-16, six degrees were awarded. Salary/degrees)
- iii. **Non-personnel expenditures per total academic FTE: UW, Laramie= \$2500** annually to support program development and faculty professional travel.

Course enrollment

- i. Number of classes falling under university minimums.  
Fall 2010- Spring 2016: **20 out of 26** courses in the faculty member's teaching load fall below UW's 10 students per course minimum. This ratio does include the EDCI 5250 course that is offered each fall semester for art education post bac students, which is not expected to reach minimum enrollment numbers as it is cross listed with Art Methods I.
- ii. Lower-division courses falling under university minimums: **0**  
(There are no 1000 or 2000 lower division undergraduate courses in this program.)

Other instructional cost drivers:

- i. Section fill rates: Only one section of Art Education courses are offered per academic year.
- ii. Course completion rates: 90-100%
- iii. Curricular complexity: All of the courses in the Art Education program are laboratory/studio based. The courses incorporate knowledge and skills to prepare future Art Education teachers.
- iv. Faculty course load: Only one faculty in program with an average 15 credit hours per year. The faculty member's position will end \_\_\_\_\_

Research expenditures per tenured/tenure-track FTE (and other academic personnel, where appropriate): **\$2,500.00** provided to the program annually out of department funds for program development and faculty travel.

**Admission, enrollment and graduation data relevant to the program, including the number of students currently enrolled and the status of their progress toward graduation:**

*Currently the Art Education program enrolled student numbers are:*

2 Freshmen  
5 Sophomores  
4 Juniors  
9 Seniors  
1 Post Baccalaureate

Listed below are numbers of graduates from the previous six years of the Art Education program.

2017 6 graduates (anticipated)  
2016 6 graduates  
2015 7 graduates  
2014 7 graduates  
2013 10 graduates  
2012 9 graduates

Of the 39 students who graduated within the last five years, approximately 90% of them are currently working and teaching in schools (80% of the teachers are in-Wyoming.) For 2016 graduates, 100% are teaching. Most of the students were hired where they completed their student teaching residency.



**Describe the administration of the program:**

Art Education is a Bachelor's Degree program that includes concurrent majors in secondary education and art. It is administered within the Department of Secondary Education, department head Kate Muir Welsh.

**Describe the faculty and academic professionals who serve in the program, including their academic credentials, academic rank and length of service to the University:**

Dr. Lydia Dambekalns, Ph.D., Penn State University, Associate Professor, Appointed 1996.

**Describe the program facilities, including classrooms and offices, library and equipment used by or dedicated to the program:**

Faculty Office: McWhinnie Hall 218

Classrooms are general pool to department managed, such as Education or Classroom Building. In addition, studio space in the Education building is used in methods courses.

**Evaluations from accrediting bodies or other reviewers of the quality of the program and its faculty and academic professionals:**

Program accreditation

- i. Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board (PTSB) is the agency responsible for licensure and endorsement of the Art Education graduates. Art Education has no nationally recognized specialized program accreditation (SPA) body.
- ii. The most recent PTSB accreditation was completed and approved in September 2013.
- iii. The program will follow the accreditation cycle of the College of Education national accreditation which will occur again in seven years (2023).
- iv. While completing the most recent program accreditation process in 2013 by the PTSB, there was one area for consideration mentioned. When final accreditation occurred, there were no outstanding recommendations or conditions.

Many of the graduates go on to teaching careers in Wyoming schools. In 2015-16 across grades 7-12, on average about 50 % of students enroll in Fine and Performing Arts classes (Wyoming Department of Education: data submitted by WY Public School Districts). A large percentage of those students are taught by UW graduates.

**Faculty Grants Awarded:**

2015 Innovative Course Development Winter Study Abroad (Benin, West Africa)

Amount awarded: \$4500

2014 Innovative Course Development Summer Study Abroad (Latvia) with Victoria Gillis, co. Amount awarded: \$5000 2013

Innovative Course Development Winter Study Abroad (Benin, West Africa) Amount awarded: \$2500

2012 United States Agency for International Development (US AID) Teacher Training for the Arts, Benin, West Africa, Amount awarded: \$810

Innovative Course Development Winter Study Abroad (Benin) Amount awarded: \$5000

**Faculty Grants submitted (non-funded):**

2011 Agency: Wyoming Space Grant Consortium (NASA) to fund the project "Combining Remote Sensing, Photography and Textile Art in Interactive Science Curricula" jointly developed with Dr. Ken Driese, WYGISC, April, 2011, Amount sought: \$9633.

**Faculty Publications:**

2012 Dambekalns, L. and Medina-Jerez, W. "Cell organelles and silk batik: a model for integrating art and science". In "Science Scope", vol. 36 (2), pp. 44-51.

Medina-Jerez, W. and Dambekalns, L. "Art and science education collaboration in a secondary teacher preparation programme". In Research in Science and Technological Education, Vol. 30 (2), pp. 209-224.

2006 Dambekalns, L. and Vitola, I. "International Collaboration in the Classroom: A dialogue and reflection", in Pedagogija un skolotaju izglitiba, Riga: University of Latvia Press, pp. 91-102.

2005 Dambekalns, L. "Earth View, Art View". In The Science Teacher, Vo. 72, No. 1. pp. 43-47.

2002 Buss A., McClurg P., and Dambekalns L. "An Investigation of GIS Workshop Experiences for Successful Classroom Implementation". ESRI on-line publications, July.

**Faculty Presentations:**

2016 "Children's school drawing experiences in Benin", Comparative International Education Association, Vancouver, Canada.

2015 "Implementing theory in northern Bukina Faso: A case study of a gender and education initiative". Spears, A. and Dambekalns, L., Comparative and International Education Society, Washington, DC.

"A Taxi for Ferdinand: Dilemmas and Discussions in an American classroom". Dambekalns, L. and Mellizo, J. Comparative and International Education Society, Washington, DC.

2014 "Voodoo Objects and Art in West Africa", National Art Education Association, San Diego, CA.

2013 "Art in the community and schools of Benin, West Africa", National Art Education Association, Ft. Worth, TX.

"Partnerships with Art and Science Pre-service Teachers", Burrows. A. and Dambekalns L., NRMERA Jackson, WY.

“ Classroom dynamics in Africa”, Comparative and International Studies international conference, New Orleans, LA.

“ Measuring artistic growth in school children, Benin, West Africa”, National Art Education Association, Ft. Worth, TX.

2012 “Integrating transformational geometry with silk painting to motivate and learn”, National Network for Education Renewal conference, Denver, CO.

“An art and science collaboration experience in a teacher preparation program”, National Science Teachers Association Conference, Indianapolis, IN.

2011 “The science and art of creative inquiry”, National Art Education Association, Seattle, WA.

2010 “Methods unite: art and science pre-service teachers”, National Art Education Association, Baltimore, MD.

“Elder Resident and College Student Joint Memory Art Project”, National Art Education Association Conference.

**Faculty National/International Awards:**

Innovative Course Development Award, UW Outreach Programs, Fall 2015. Innovative Course Development Award, UW Outreach Programs, Spring 2015. Innovative Course Development Award, UW Outreach Programs, Fall 2014.

Innovative Course Development Award, UW Outreach Programs, Fall 2011 Innovative Course Development Award, UW Outreach Programs, Fall 2012. Sabbatical Year Award, University of Wyoming academic year 2011-2012. Worked on writing science/art articles and spent six months in Benin, West Africa working with art curriculum development at CIAMO.

J. William Fulbright Scholar International Award. Lecturer at the University of Latvia and consultant to the Ministry of Science and Education, Riga Latvia, Sept. 2004-Jan 2005. Sabbatical Year Award. University of Wyoming. Fulbright Semester abroad (including study of the expanded EU) for the fall plus worked on Science/Art interdisciplinary connections spring semester. 2004-2005.

Wyoming Art Educator of the Year, 2001 presented at the National Art Education Convention in New York, March 2001. Distinguished Paper award for Transforming the Ordinary to the Extraordinary: Changing Science into Art by the editors of International Visual Literacy’s Selected Readings, 1998.

Wyoming Council for the Humanities, 1998 Speakers Bureau Fellow, 1998.

Pennsylvania Governor’s Schools for Excellence Award. August 1996.

Teaching Assistantship, Pennsylvania State University. 1991-1995

**Comparison of the program with related or similar programs:**

This program is unique because it is the only opportunity for a bachelor’s degree in Art Education in the state. The dual degree option also makes the program unique and highly beneficial to our students in future employment qualifications and opportunities.

**Describe the anticipated effects of elimination of the program upon the college in which the program is situated, upon other colleges and units of the University, and upon the University as a whole, including:**

**Effects upon students enrolled in the academic program:**

We anticipate 2 additional years of methods courses (EDSE 3276/4276) and residency courses (EDSE 4500) will be required to complete the current students' programs.

**Effects upon faculty and academic professionals who serve in the program, including termination of any existing positions:**

**Minimal.** The faculty member's position will end October 2018 as a result of a phased retirement agreement.

**Educational and financial effects upon other units of the University:**

It is possible that the Art Department would need to allocate additional fiscal and faculty resources should this Department choose to pick up the Art Education major.

**Effects upon faculty, academic professionals, staff, students and alumni of the University:**

There are no anticipated negative effects upon the remaining faculty or academic professionals in the College. However, it may negatively affect faculty or academic professionals in the Art Department should this group determine they'd like to pick up this major. Students in this program are few and would be "taught out" to the completion of their degree programs. Alumni with Art Education degrees will likely be unaffected as well since their programs and degrees are completed.

**Effects on the State of Wyoming, including loss of benefits conferred outside the University by the academic program:**

Many of the graduates go on to teaching careers in Wyoming schools. In 2015-16 across grades 7-12, on average about 50 % of students enroll in Fine and Performing Arts classes (Wyoming Department of Education: data submitted by WY Public School Districts). A large percentage of those students are taught by UW graduates. As such, it is important for the College of Education to investigate the option of working with the Art Department on an option for students to pursue this career.



**Implementation plan to be followed in the event the academic program is eliminated, including:**

**Procedures for handling current and future applications for admission:**

The Secondary Education Department and College of Education will work with the Department of Art investigate the possibility of the Art faculty teaching and developing the course work needed to support an option for their students to become K-12<sup>th</sup> grade art educators. This arrangement would be similar to the Music Education Major in the Department of Music. If such an arrangement is viable, future students would be directed to this option.

**Plans for assisting currently enrolled students to complete the course of study:**

Expected timeline to meet teach-out requirements established through the regional accrediting body.

*Currently the Art Education program enrolled student numbers are:*

2 Freshmen

5 Sophomores

4 Juniors

9 Seniors

1 Post Baccalaureate

*Given these enrollment numbers, we anticipate 2 additional years of methods courses (EDSE 3276/4276) and residency courses (EDSE 4500) will be required to complete the students' programs.*

**Plans for accommodating faculty and academic professionals who will be terminated or otherwise affected by elimination of the academic program:**

The faculty member's position will end October 2018 due to a phased retirement agreement.



College of Education  
Office of the Dean  
Dept. 3374 • 1000 E. University Ave. • Laramie, Wyoming 82071  
(307) 766-3145 • fax: (307) 766-6668

December 22, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kate Miller, Provost/VPAA

FROM: D. Ray Reutzel, Dean, College of Education

RE: Program Review for the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Degree in Secondary Art Education: Dean's Response, 1<sup>st</sup> comment period

**Solicitation of Input**

We sought input from students, faculty, staff, and external audiences in the P-12 community. Our first effort was for the Dean in October to present the recommendation to eliminate the Secondary Education program in Art Education to the membership of the *Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board (PTSB)* on October 10, 2016. In addition to this group, the Dean presented this information to the *Wyoming School-University Partnership* members in Casper on November 3, 2016. These organizations were judged to be key to approval of and input about our educator preparation programs. The Dean also provided a written explanation of this recommendation to the *Wyoming School Boards Association*, which was read aloud at the most recent meeting of the Delegates Assembly by local School Board Chair, Janice Marshall (Email dated 11.7.16).

We also established a Dean's Office email address to receive input from any interested individual or group internal or external to the College or University. This email address was distributed through our Office of Teacher Education to our student body and to our faculty through an email announcement from the Dean's Office in October 2016.

As Dean I have met personally with the affected program students in a town hall meeting as well as meeting in person with the affected faculty member, Lydia Dambekalns, as well as with the Head of the Department of Secondary Education to discuss this recommendation. In addition, we advertised to faculty, staff, and students open town hall meetings held in the College of Education in regard to this program on November 2, 2016 to receive additional input.

## **Summarization of Input**

At the Dean's Presentation to the *Wyoming PTSB*, Superintendent John Lyttle of Laramie County School District #1 vigorously resisted the elimination of any secondary education programs citing his district's need for art educators. Similarly school superintendents at the *Wyoming School-University Partnership* meeting in Casper were less vigorous but questions were asked and explanations given. The Dean has not heard any further comments from the superintendents in attendance. The *Wyoming School Boards Association* had planned to pass a resolution against this program elimination in Secondary Education but after hearing the Dean's explanation read aloud at the Delegate's Assembly determined not to do so.

In the meeting of the faculty and students regarding the recommendation to eliminate the art education program, several students ( $n < 5$ ) expressed concerns about being able to complete the program and their desire for the program to continue. Dr. Kate M. Welsh, Head of the Department of Secondary Education, also expressed concern, as did Dr. Dambekalns, about the potential loss of the undergraduate art teacher education program although many UW art students have been completing a BFA in art first and then taking a post bachelors art education program to certify to teach.

There were 0 responses expressing concern about the recommendation to eliminate the art education program to the Dean's Office Email Address.

I, along with Associate Dean Leslie Rush, also met with the *Department of Art* at UW on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to discuss if the department could assume the responsibility for this teacher education program within their current resources.

December 16, 2016 I received a copy of the Departmental response to the recommendation to eliminate the art education program in secondary education by Dr. Kate M. Welsh, Department Head. This letter expressed concurrence with the Dean's recommendation to eliminate the art education program.

## **Response to Input**

Although the enrollment data are undeniable, there nonetheless exists a strong sentiment that the secondary art education program should be maintained as expressed by select school leadership personnel, UW secondary education faculty, high school teachers, and high school students. In an era of extreme financial crisis and massive budget reductions, low enrollment programs become very difficult to defend. Because of low enrollments, the cost of a single graduate in art education vastly exceeds the college's average direct instructional cost of approximately \$7,500.00 per degree program graduate.

School personnel admit they hire many of their art education teachers from UW. They do not assert, however, that art education teachers are similarly difficult to recruit nationwide.

After a meeting with the *Art* faculty and administration to determine if they could assume responsibility for offering this teacher education program within their existing resources, it was decided that they could not do so without additional teaching and monetary resources. Some discussion surrounded the idea of offering a post bachelors route to teacher licensure was discussed.

The final reason to support the elimination of the art education program in secondary education at UW is that in October 2018 the single faculty member in art education in the College of Education will retire. To meet the state legislature's budget cuts in March 2016, 50% of the salary was used to meet the College's budget reduction target. It was agreed that at the point of this faculty member's retirement the President's Office will review the taking of this position to meet the state mandated budget cuts in 2018. Consequently, even if one were to support the continuation of the program, the resources to support it have been taken in the budget reduction and hiring freeze brought on by the state's and university's financial crisis.

#### **Dean's Recommendation at Conclusion of 1<sup>st</sup> Comment Period**

**It remains the recommendation of the Dean that the B. A. in Secondary Art Education be discontinued. As described above, the Department of Art may be able to work out a path forward at some future time, but the loss of a faculty line in the budget reductions at UW provide no reasonable alternative to program closure at this time.**

Sincerely,



D. Ray Reutzal, Ph.D.  
Dean



## Anne M. Alexander

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**From:** Kate Muir Welsh  
**Sent:** Friday, December 16, 2016 5:13 PM  
**To:** Program Review - Academic Affairs Office  
**Cc:** Douglas Ray Reutzel  
**Subject:** Department Head Comments on Art Education Academic Program Review

Dear Provost Miller,

Given that the lone Art Education faculty member is transitioning to retirement and that the program has a low graduation rate, I write to support the decision to eliminate the Art Education Program.

The Secondary Education Department Office did not receive any statements regarding the elimination during the comment period. We had a binder with information (program reviews and correspondence) about the three Secondary Education programs recommended for elimination. It was be available in our office 114 McWhinnie Hall for approximately two months. Also in the binder were directions for how to provide comments and feedback on the program elimination proposals.

The College of Education is in discussions with the Art Department to help them as they investigate if they are able develop and support a modern languages education program.

Sincerely,

Kate

Kate Muir Welsh, Department Head  
Department of Secondary Education  
University of Wyoming, College of Education  
phone: 307-766-2013  
fax: 307-766-3387  
email: [kmuir@uwyo.edu](mailto:kmuir@uwyo.edu)

Mailing Address;  
College of Education  
Department 3374  
1000 East University Ave.  
Laramie, WY 82071

**Subject:** FW: Art Education undergraduate program  
**Date:** Thursday, December 15, 2016 at 6:37:21 AM Mountain Standard Time  
**From:** Kate Miller  
**To:** Program Review - Academic Affairs Office

Area 5

-Kate

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**From:** Laurie Nichols <Laurie.Nichols@uwyo.edu>  
**Date:** Monday, December 5, 2016 at 3:37 PM  
**To:** Kate Miller <kate.miller@uwyo.edu>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Art Education undergraduate program

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Steve Law <[SLaw@Goshen1.org](mailto:SLaw@Goshen1.org)>  
**Date:** December 5, 2016 at 11:14:52 AM MST  
**To:** "[laurie.nichols@uwyo.edu](mailto:laurie.nichols@uwyo.edu)" <[laurie.nichols@uwyo.edu](mailto:laurie.nichols@uwyo.edu)>  
**Subject:** Art Education undergraduate program

Hello President Nicols,

My name is Steve Law and I have been teaching High School students for the past 21 years, the last ten in Torrington as the Art teacher. My wife and I are both UW Graduates and teachers. I am very thankful for your listening tour and regretted not being able to see your presentation. I have a wonderful story about the UW art education program and how it benefits the entire state of Wyoming.

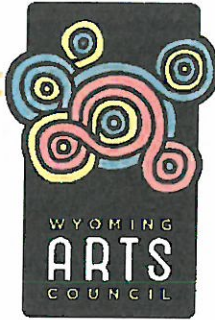
Adam Helzer was a senior in my class, he did not know what direction in life he was headed. I sat down with Adam at the potters wheel and showed him how to make pottery. He took to it like a duck to water. He decided that he wanted to pursue pottery and art education and became a star potter at the UW Art Department. Adam graduated with a degree in art ed. and now is in his second year in Buffalo, Wyo. He has already had students win many blue ribbons as well as a student design picked for the 2015 logo for symposium. His student also won a state congressional award for a 3-D sculpture in 2015. Mr. Helzer is a success story of a young man that discovered his passion for art and teaching and is now active in helping our state's young artists in finding their passion.

Please consider continuing the Art Education program and fund the position that will allow the arts and methods to be in that wonderful Fine Arts Building, working together to help our state grow our next generation of artists and art educators.

I have a special interest as well because last Friday my daughter, Kelly, transferred into the UW arts program. Our family is very much Wyoming and we are excited for her to become a part of the great community that we know and respect at the University of Wyoming.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Steve Law  
Torrington Art

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of Goshen County District # 1 individuals or entities to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please delete it and notify the system manager.



November 2, 2016

Ms. Laurie Nichols, President  
The University of Wyoming  
1000 E. University Avenue  
Laramie, WY 82071

Dear President Nichols:

A high-quality, well-rounded education is vital for our state as we continue to strive towards graduating innovative, career-ready, and responsible individuals, ready to solve the unique problems that face our 21<sup>st</sup> century world. One of the keys to maintaining this standard of academic excellence is the training of high-quality educators.

In the University of Wyoming's recent budget reduction plan, the Wyoming Arts Council was excited to take note that the university is planning to consider ways to streamline the education of students pursuing degrees and certification in arts education. This proposed change has the potential to provide a stronger connection between art education, visual art and art history degree programs, much in the same way as the music education model.

As the university moves forward with these restructuring plans, the Wyoming Arts Council gives its strongest support to ensure that the University of Wyoming provides the necessary financial, staffing, and academic support for this change in the arts education program to successfully occur.

Please let us know if we can offer any support as these plans move forward. Thank you for your consideration of the importance of the arts in education, not only as it pertains to the preparation of future teachers, but also in the education of our future creative and innovative workforce.

Sincerely,

Michael Lange  
Executive Director

Tara Pappas  
Arts Education Specialist

cc: The University of Wyoming Board of Trustees

Matthew H. Mead | Governor  
Darin J. Westby, P.E. | Director



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## Anne M. Alexander

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**From:** Lydia Dambekalns  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 8, 2016 2:03 PM  
**To:** Program Review - Academic Affairs Office  
**Subject:** Elimination of the Art Ed program

Hello:  
I gave my comment about elimination of the Art Ed program orally earlier this month when the dean of the C of Ed held a town meeting.. so you can hear them if you like as you listen to that audio transcript.  
But if you miss that, here is a quick summary:

I have been teaching for the Art Ed program since 1996.  
I was caught completely off guard about program elimination, as it was June/July when I was on vacation and my Dept. Head asked about my input for the dean's "recommendation to eliminate". As a result, I didn't have at my fingertips, the information about where my graduated students have their jobs... but I can tell you that I have about a 90% placement rate of UW art education students each year. And that 10% is usually self-choice (pregnancy and the like). SO, there is quite a demand for our UW art ed graduates. I feel we've had a high quality of art ed graduates, and I have made some hard choices along the way to counsel some juniors or seniors out of the program who I thought were not suited to the classroom. Again, I did this to keep the program reputation honest, and if this hurt the numbers, well, I guess that's that. It is unfair to spring the elimination of programs on us suddenly without some years' warnings and also some understanding ahead of time as to what criteria you are using.

Also, apparently, you only counted BAs graduating, and not the fact that we have a number of post-bacs who take our art ed sequence/student teaching. For the past 3-5 years, I've been encouraging people to go the post-bac route, never realizing that the numbers would jeopardize the program by doing so.

Because I knew I'd be working towards a soon-to-be retirement, for the past few years, I have repeatedly suggested that art education should be part of the Art Dept (as is most common throughout the USA), not housed in the College of Education. I believe that the most sensible course of action would be for Art Ed to become a post-bac program (so basically that would be a four years plus one).

Bottom line: Please consider the future path for our ability as a state to educate future art teachers. If you eliminate the program entirely, will that make it hard for the Art Dept. to pick it up (should they decide to do so). Also, please do not equate program elimination with the quality of our art ed graduates... I have always been proud of this program.

Thanks,  
Lydia Dambekalns

Lydia Dambekalns, Ph.D  
Associate Professor  
University of Wyoming  
Department of Secondary Education  
Office: 218 McWhinnie Hall  
Phone: 307-766-6502  
email: LYDART@uwyo.edu

**Subject:** Re: Elimination of the Art Education Program  
**Date:** Friday, December 2, 2016 at 7:52:24 AM Mountain Standard Time  
**From:** Sharon Mathiesen  
**To:** Program Review - Academic Affairs Office

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**From:** Sharon Mathiesen <matisse20@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 1, 2016 3:36 PM  
**To:** progrew@uwyo.edu  
**Subject:** Elimination of the Art Education Program

To Whom It May Concern:

I have taught Art for over 20 years at the UW Lab School, in Laramie. For all but two of those years, I had a Pre-service teacher in my classroom from the College of Education.

I also taught Art Methods I & II twice, when Lydia Dambekalns was on sabbatical. One of the most rewarding aspects of my job has been working with the Pre-service students.

My concerns are: 1. as an arts educator, I, of course want the State of Wyoming to continue to produce good, innovative, and caring art educators. I have had the pleasure of watching several of my students go into either Art Education or the Visual Arts program here at the University. I want that to still be an option here in Wyoming.

2. As a working artist in the state of Wyoming, it would be a travesty to think that we would not produce art teachers to encourage & influence future artists. I am proud to work in a state that has such a wealth of artists across the Arts.

If the Arts Education Program is removed from the College of Education it is my profound hope that you will endorse and support the transition of moving the Arts Education Program to the Visual Arts Department.

Please do not overlook the importance of the Arts in our culture, as a way to encourage and enlighten our young people. Given the political unrest in our country at this time and the issues that young children deal with every day we need the arts more than ever.

Sincerely,

Sharon Mathiesen  
Arts Instructor  
UW Lab School

October 11, 2016

To whom this may concern,

This letter is in regard to the proposition to cut the Art Education program at the University of Wyoming. My name is Paige Gustafson, and I teach art locally at Slade Elementary School and Centennial Elementary School. I also have my master's degree in special education. From my experience in these positions, I have seen first-hand the positive and crucial effect that the arts have on a child academically, behaviorally, socially, and emotionally. Fine art is one of the most accessible subjects in creating meaningful, cross-curricular activities. Each week in the art room, students are creating beautiful art pieces that attach themselves to history, science, math, or literature. The arts are an integral aspect in developing a child's motor skills, spatial reasoning, critical problem solving skills, developing both the left and the right brain, encouraging exploration, developing tactile awareness, and laying a foundation for self-directed learning. The arts provide an outlet for emotions and reach students who may struggle in other areas. They promote a sense of belonging, they introduce students to countries from around the world, and they help foster a respect and understanding of other cultures that will ultimately help them excel in an increasingly global society. Art provides the innovation that drives the products that we use and love on a daily basis and they are a beautiful addition to teaching the whole child.

Furthermore, studies have shown that participation in the arts increases graduation rates, lowers behavioral referrals, and aids in the participation and understanding of science and engineering. This is evident in programs like STEAM. By removing an important program like art education at the University of Wyoming, we are removing a critical part of teaching the whole child. We need to look at art as a central curriculum in education. As Jane Chu, chairman of the National Endowment of the Arts, said, art should not be viewed as a fringe idea that can only be accessed by a few. It is part of all of us, and necessary in our society.

I would like to vocalize my support for the art education program to be part of the art department and I would like to help out in any way that I can. I know that I speak for many of the other art teachers in this community by saying this. Laramie has a strong and vibrant K-12 art program, and we would like to see this continue with great candidates from a local art education program.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Paige Gustafson  
Art Teacher  
Slade Elementary and Centennial Elementary  
[pgustafson@acsd1.org](mailto:pgustafson@acsd1.org)  
[piggustafson@gmail.com](mailto:piggustafson@gmail.com)  
775-217-1961 (cell)

**Subject:** Art Educaiton

**Date:** Monday, October 10, 2016 at 9:15:52 PM Mountain Daylight Time

**From:** Rebecca Watson

**To:** Program Review - Academic Affairs Office

To whom it May Concern,

I am writing today to strongly encourage you to rethink the elimination of the Art Education degree program at the University of Wyoming. I don't believe this is the solution to our budget cuts. Perhaps moving the program to be under the art department's umbrella would be a better solution.

I was a graduate from the art education post bachelorette program in 2006 and I now teach art at Spring Creek Elementary School in Laramie. This is my 10<sup>th</sup> year teaching. With out the Art Education degree program I never would have gotten my job.

In that 10 years time my belief in the importance of arts in the schools has only strengthened. Every day I witness and have conversation with students who come to school because they get to go to art. I also see a lot of trends and changes with in public education. However, there is one theme that appears to be reoccurring. Teachers are educating our youth for the future. A future that we don't know exactly what it is going to look like. For that unknown future there are several qualities that we know people will need: Creativity, innovation, critical thought, the ability to work independently and the ability to make connections. These are all qualities of an art education.

In 2009 the Center for Arts Education published a report that suggests that arts education may improve graduation rates. This means we need quality art educators. This also means that if the arts do in fact increase graduation rates they would in-turn increase the likely hood that there are more students going to college. If there are more students going to collage, this means an increased enrolment at the University of Wyoming. Through brain research we have discovered that no two brains are alike. That means that every single person learns differently. By illuminating degrees you are illuminating students and decreasing enrolment.

This may seem lofty but concenter for a moment that you are in a state of 500,000 people. Graduates from Wyoming tent to stay in Wyoming. If there are high quality art programs through out the state than more students graduate and if more students graduate there is an increase in enrolment at the University. I encourage you to rethink the elimination of the Art Education Degree program.

Thank you.

--

Rebecca Watson  
Spring Creek Art Teacher  
Art Methods 1 Instructor UW



Laramie Nordic Head Coach  
High Plains Team Leader  
(307) 760 - 6838

**Subject:** Art Education Cuts

**Date:** Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at 1:49:01 PM Mountain Daylight Time

**From:** Gilfillan, Teresa L

**To:** Program Review - Academic Affairs Office

Good Afternoon!

My name is Teresa Gilfillan and I received my post-bac Art Education certification from the University of Wyoming in 2014. Since that time I have been employed with LCSD#1 as an Elementary Art Education teacher. I am currently working on my MA in curriculum and instruction from UW as well. I felt it necessary to express my concerns and questions about ending the Art Education program at UW.

While I attended school at UW in the Art Education program, I took courses from the Fine Art Department and the Education Department. My first thought when hearing that the budgets cuts could include eliminating Art Education degree offering was that I didn't understand how it would save any money since the program and degree utilizes both departments and already existing classes. I took art classes with BFA and Art majors and I took Education classes with Elementary Education majors. It seems like eliminating this degree wouldn't save any money since it simply overlaps two different departments that will remain intact after the reductions. Is there actually any positions that will be removed by this decision? How will this save money? It seems like this is actually a good use of programs BECAUSE it doesn't create any additional positions and only utilizes existing faculty.

Secondly, to the best of my knowledge, UW offers the ONLY Art Education certification program in the state of Wyoming. I am an older, non-traditional, married student with a family who went back to school late in life to pursue certification to teach in a field that I was passionate about. If UW did not offer this program, it would not have been possible for me to change my life. I would probably still be working in a cube processing water discharge permits. How unfortunate that in the future, the state of Wyoming will be forced to hire art teachers from out of state programs instead of utilizing the many talented artists who already live and work in Wyoming. Wyoming has many openings for art teachers every year. I can think of 4 positions off the top of my head this year in Laramie County alone. I have heard from others that it is similar in the rest of the state, especially with many baby boomers reaching retirement age now and in the next few years.

Please reconsider removing Art Education from the list of degrees to be removed. It isn't always about the numbers. I would understand if UW was losing money on the program, but to the best of my knowledge every course I took was offered for multiple different degrees and programs other than Art Education, and would continue to be offered in the future even if this degree program is removed.

Sincerely,

***Teresa Gilfillan***

*Art Teacher*

*Pioneer Park Elementary*

307-771-2316

[gilfillant@laramie1.org](mailto:gilfillant@laramie1.org)

**Subject:** Cuts to Art Education

**Date:** Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at 8:23:49 AM Mountain Daylight Time

**From:** Tyson Waggener

**To:** Program Review - Academic Affairs Office

**CC:** Abbey Zimmerman, Casey VanSickle, Corina Crump, Dana Miller, Deb Tangen, Jason Linduska, Linda Stewart, Rede Ballard, Roxanne West, Anna Burbank, Brenna Chafee, Christina Baysinger, Cody Smith, Erin O'Hara, Ginger Cassidy, Jessica Aultman, Sara Sproul, Sarah Lewis, Shelby Weyrich, Sue Cosgrove, Tarina Leithead, Tracey Lawrence, Vickie Hanson

Hi Kate Miller,

My name is Tyson Waggener I am a high school art teacher at Campbell County High School in Gillette. I wanted to voice my concern about a recent news release by UW. The release says UW is considering cutting several degree programs including Art Education.

I have a personal interest in you keeping this program because I currently send my best students to UW to major in Art Education. This particular program cut seems illogical too because you are keeping both pieces of the degree and offering Art Degrees as well as Education Degrees. The difference in specialized courses for Art Education is very few. I think I had to take three special courses to obtain my degree (which were taught by a part time adjunct professor, making it even cheaper to offer). This seems like one of the most inexpensive degree programs UW could offer considering there are two big programs that already make up 90% of the degree.

If you cut Art Education from the offering we will have a hard time keeping good Art Educators in the state of Wyoming since there will be no place in state to obtain that degree.

Particularly here in Gillette we have had around 12 art openings in the last five years. Last year we had an opening and there were only four applicants and only two of them were qualified to take the position. This cut seems like it will continue this trend of a shallow talent pool. I believe the future implications will hurt Art Education in Wyoming for years to come.

Please reconsider cutting this program. We are out here working to send you more students to continue to grow the program. I am willing to do more to help if UW wants to do recruiting in my classroom/ school every year. Please let me know what we can do to help.

11 October,2016

To the program review committee:

I would like to add my support for the University of Wyoming to keep the art education program intact. Whether it is kept in the Education Department or with the Art Department it is essential that this invaluable program remains an integral part of the University.

I taught at the elementary level for seventeen years and have witnessed firsthand the powerful benefits a strong art program brings to any curriculum. As educators yourselves I do not need to enlighten you as to the many positive manifestations the arts add to a child's development and overall success in any educational endeavor. To think art is a superficial and unnecessary luxury is really archaic thinking.

If you as a University want to attract top level educators and students it is paramount that you demonstrate an understanding of and an appreciation for the fine arts. Art stands hand in hand with any other program in the development of our students.

Thank you for your time,

Dave Gustafson

775/217-1597

260 N. Lincoln St.

Laramie, Wy