

November 11, 2022

Meredith Re Grimsley
Chair, Department of Art and Art History
Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania
400 East Second Street, Old Science Hall 213
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Dear Professor Grimsley:

Thank you for submitting your application for review by the NASAD Commission on Accreditation. The Commission, at its October 2022 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 Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania according to the NASAD accreditation standards in effect in October 2022.

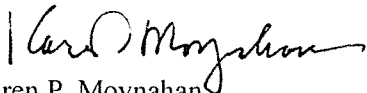
As an accredited institutional member of NASAD, the institution is reminded of its responsibility to participate in reviews and revisions to the NASAD *Handbook*, and to maintain its operations and programs current with NASAD standards as these are developed and approved.

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:jrk
Enclosure

cc: Bashar W. Hanna, President
Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania



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.

November 11, 2022

COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Bloomsburg Campus

Lock Haven Campus

Mansfield Campus

Actions:

All Campuses

Action 1 of 7: Progress Report after Substantive Change

The Commission voted to accept the Progress Report regarding the integration with two other institutions and request an additional Progress Report addressing the issue cited below.

Item for Progress Report:

Preface: The Commission acknowledges correspondence received by NASAD dated July 1, 2022, verifying that the integration of Lock Haven University, Mansfield University, and Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania into a single entity named Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania has been legally effectuated, and that the surviving entity, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, so now named Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania continues to hold NASAD accredited institutional membership. NASAD will update its records amending the name of Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania to Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania. The Commission notes that Lock Haven University and Mansfield University did not hold accredited institutional membership with NASAD at the time of the integration, no longer exist as separate operating entities, and that aspects of their former operations are now encompassed within the newly integrated institution.

The Commission notes that the integration of the three campuses continues and the efforts of Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania to create publications reflective of the integration of operations and curricula under the new Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania title remains ongoing. The institution is asked to provide updated information regarding the development of integrated publications, both print- and web-based, that accurately represent the curricula and programs of Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania and the respective roles the three campuses assume in the delivery of a) discrete art/design degrees and programs, and b) art/design coursework (see NASAD *Handbook 2021-22*, Standards for Accreditation II.I.1.a.–b.).

COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Bloomsburg Campus

Lock Haven Campus

Mansfield Campus

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Action 2 of 7: Application for Plan Approval – Original

The Commission voted to defer action on the application for Plan Approval for the degree, Bachelor of Arts-4 years: Visual Arts (Art History, Ceramics, Drawing, Fabric Design, Graphic Design, Painting, Photography and Digital Media, Printmaking, Sculpture) pending Response to the issues listed below.

Items for Response:

1. It is unclear from the material provided how the options for courses in the individual concentrations provide for the development of competencies that can support capstone study required in the core curriculum. In many cases, it appears possible for students to accumulate a set of courses at the introductory level that fulfill the requirements of an individual concentration. The institution is asked to demonstrate how it will ensure sufficient development of competencies within the concentrations supportive of capstone study (see *NASAD Handbook 2021-22*, Standards for Accreditation IV.A.2.).
2. It is unclear, within the requirements for art history, how students will “gain familiarity with the works and intentions of major artists/designers and movements of the past and the present, both in the Western and non-Western worlds” (see *NASAD Handbook 2021-22*, Standards for Accreditation VII.E.4.). The institution is asked to document, through course requirements or syllabi, how such familiarity is to be acquired.

Action 3 of 7: Application for Plan Approval – Original

The Commission voted to defer action on the application for Plan Approval for the degree, Bachelor of Fine Arts-4 years: Visual Arts (Art History, Graphic Design) pending Response to the issue listed below.

Item for Response:

It is unclear, within the concentration in Graphic Design, how students will “learn to analyze works of art/design from both Western and non-Western cultures perceptively and to evaluate them critically” (see *NASAD Handbook 2021-22*, Standards for Accreditation VIII.B.2.a.). The institution is asked to document, through course requirements or syllabi, how such analysis and ability is to be acquired.

Bloomsburg Campus

Action 4 of 7: Application for Plan Approval – Original

The Commission voted to defer action on the application for Plan Approval for the degree, Bachelor of Fine Arts-4 years: Visual Arts (Drawing, Fabric Design, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture) pending Response to the issue listed below.

COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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Item for Response:

It is unclear, within the requirements for art history or other studies, how students will “learn to analyze works of art/design from both Western and non-Western cultures perceptively and to evaluate them critically” (see NASAD *Handbook 2021-22*, Standards for Accreditation VIII.B.2.a.). The institution is asked to document, through course requirements or syllabi, how such analysis is to be conducted and abilities to be acquired.

Lock Haven Campus

Action 5 of 7: Application for Plan Approval – Original

The Commission voted to defer action on the application for Plan Approval for the degree, Bachelor of Fine Arts-4 years: Visual Arts (2-D Media, 3-D Media) pending Response to the issues listed below.

Items for Response:

1. It is unclear from the material provided how the options for courses in the individual concentrations provide for the acquisition of knowledge and skills such that required competencies requisite for professional study can be developed. In many cases, it appears possible to accumulate a set of courses at the introductory level that fulfill the requirements of an individual concentration. The institution is asked to demonstrate how it will ensure sufficient development of competencies within the concentrations supportive of advanced professional study (see NASAD *Handbook 2021-22*, Standards for Accreditation VIII.C.).
2. It is unclear, within the coursework required, how students will “learn to analyze works of art/design from both Western and non-Western cultures perceptively and to evaluate them critically” (see NASAD *Handbook 2021-22*, Standards for Accreditation VIII.B.2.a.). The institution is asked to document, through course requirements or syllabi, how such analysis is to be conducted and abilities to be acquired.

Action 6 of 7: Application for Plan Approval – Response

The Commission voted to accept the Response regarding the degree, Bachelor of Fine Arts-4 years: Studio Art (Graphic and Online Design).

Mansfield Campus

Action 7 of 7: Application for Plan Approval – Original

The Commission voted to defer action on the application for Plan Approval for the degree, Bachelor of

COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**Bloomsburg Campus****Lock Haven Campus****Mansfield Campus**

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Fine Arts-4 years: Visual Arts (2-D Media, 3-D Media) pending Response to the issue listed below.

Items for Response:

See Action 5 above.

Due Date:

March 1 for consideration at the Commission meetings of April 2023.

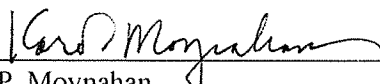
The procedures for submitting Responses and Progress Reports may be downloaded from the NASAD website at <https://nasad.arts-accredit.org> (see “Accreditation,” beneath that “Accreditation Materials,” and beneath that “Procedures”).

Notes:

1. The Commission notes that the degree, Bachelor of Arts-4 years: Visual Arts (2-D Media, 3-D Media) is intended to replace the previously approved degree, Bachelor of Arts-4 years: Studio Arts (2-D Media, 3-D Media). The Commission notes that, if approved, the Bachelor of Arts-4 years: Visual Arts (2-D Media, 3-D Media) will be offered at the Lock Haven and Mansfield campuses (see application for Plan Approval, cover page).
2. The Commission notes that the degree, Bachelor of Fine Arts-4 years: Studio Art (Graphic and Online Design) is being terminated as of the 2022-2023 academic year.

Commendation:

The institution is commended for its thorough and clear response to the issues articulated in the NASAD Commission Action Report dated May 24, 2022, its ongoing attention to the complexities of the institutional integration, and its continued engagement with NASAD.



Karen P. Moynahan
Executive Director

KPM:jrk

NASAD Handbook 2021-22

RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE, PART II

ARTICLE XIII DISCLOSURE AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Section 1. NASAD provides numerous services that include the publication of policy statements, reports, and surveys. These are available to the public, some for a fee. Upon request, NASAD will provide the academic and professional qualifications of the members of its policy and decision-making bodies and its administrative personnel.

Section 2. Upon request, NASAD will make publicly available all information about an institution/program that is published in NASAD literature (see Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II, Article XI., Section 3.). NASAD will also indicate whether or not an institution/program holds or has held accredited membership.

Section 3. NASAD will not make publicly available any information supplied by the institution or by representatives of NASAD in the course of the accreditation process. This includes Self-Study reports, Visitors' Reports, and correspondence. While NASAD encourages institutions/programs to make publicly available information about their accredited status and to share accreditation materials with individuals and agencies having legitimate claim to information beyond that available to the general public, the Association regards all accreditation materials as the property of the institution. Therefore, release of these materials is either through the institution or by its permission.

Section 4. NASAD will not make publicly available any information provided in third-party comment or an institution's response to third-party comment or any correspondence related to third-party comment (see Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II, Article IV., Section 1.).

Section 5. If an institution releases information that misrepresents or distorts any action by NASAD with respect to any aspect of the accreditation process, or the status of affiliation with NASAD, the chief executive officer of the institution and the program director, where applicable, will be notified by the NASAD Executive Director and informed that corrective action must be taken. If the misrepresentation or distortion is not promptly corrected, NASAD, at its discretion, may release a public statement in such a form and content as it deems necessary to provide the correct information.

The same rule and sequence are applied to individuals and organizations misrepresenting or distorting accreditation actions of NASAD.

NASAD reserves the right to correct false or misleading information at any time.

Section 6. Certain relationships yield information which legally cannot be disclosed without the consent of the person who provides it—for example, the relationship between physician and patient, between attorney and client, between clergy and penitent, etc. Should such information, or other information that is protected under law by a comparable privilege or safeguard, come into the hands of NASAD or an NASAD evaluation team, its disclosure to persons other than the immediate recipients is forbidden.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF ART AND DESIGN

Explanation of Deferral

In the accreditation process, the accrediting Commission may find a situation in which an institution cannot be granted initial accreditation, renewal of accreditation, Plan Approval, and/or Final Approval for Listing on the basis of evidence presented. This may be because sufficient or complete information has not been provided or, because after the review of all relevant information made available by the institution, it is not clear or apparent that an institution meets applicable standards as outlined in the *NASAD Handbook*.

As a result, the Commission defers any action on an institution's application until certain conditions are addressed that clarify the situation or confirm an institution's compliance. Deferral is not a negative action or an indication of lack of support, but rather a mechanism intended to open an intellectual and probing dialogue between the Commission and an institution—a dialogue intended to promote and support further study on the part of an institution—for the benefit of the students served. Such studies typically result in more focused observations, renewed commitments, and new options for an institution to consider.

Member institutions whose applications are deferred continue their current accreditation status and maintain all rights and responsibilities of accreditation. Deferral does not mean that an institution has lost its accreditation, its right to vote during an Annual Meeting, or its listing in the NASAD Directory List. Deferral does not mean that an institution's accreditation status is in jeopardy. Deferral simply indicates that an institution has one or more issues that need to be reviewed, explained in further detail, or addressed before the institution's application can be approved.

Should an institution fail to demonstrate compliance with issues articulated in a Commission Action Report and therefore cause a pattern of continuous deferrals, it is possible that action to place an institution on probation, revoke an institution's membership, or deny accreditation could result. This scenario is highly unlikely in cases where institutions are making substantial and timely progress to comply with applicable standards. Institutions are guided to review the Association's *Policy Concerning Commission Action and Timelines* (see *NASAD Handbook*, Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II, Article IV., Section 3.).

There is no public notice of deferral. Letters reporting accreditation actions are sent only to the institutionally-designated primary institutional representative to NASAD and the chief executive officer of the institution. The NASAD National Office staff does not discuss an institution's status or application with any individual other than the art/design executive or appropriate designated administrative officials of the institution.

Should questions pertaining to a Commission Action Report, actions to defer, the application of standards, and/or Association policies arise, institutional representatives are urged to contact the NASAD National Office staff. Staff members can provide invaluable assistance to administrators preparing materials for, and in response to, Commission review.

Thank you.