



December 13, 2011

Re: Suspension of Queen's Bachelor of Fine Arts Program

To: Queen's University Senate

Dear members of Queen's University Senate,

The Council of the Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS) at Queen's represents over 4,000 students of varied disciplines within Queen's academic community. We are writing you today to express our concern about the process through which Queen's Bachelor of Fine Arts Program was recently suspended.

As a matter of principle, we oppose any program closure, suspension and amalgamation based solely on financial considerations. Resource shortages are often trickle-down effects of administrative priorities. Students and faculty should not be made to bear the burden of managerial decisions which are enacted from the top-down.

The ongoing threats to the Nova Scotia College of Arts and Design (NSCAD) present us with a cautionary tale, one that tells of the dangers of prioritizing financial considerations over the preservation of the academy as a place for creativity and true social innovation. We fear that those programs which fail to generate a profit are put at risk when administrators manage our institution in one such way as to render its mission --to encourage the creation and dissemination of curiosity-driven knowledge— secondary to finances.

Seeing as the academic mission of the University falls clearly and directly under the purview of Senate (<http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/functions.html>), we ask that the decision to suspend admissions to the BFA program be rescinded until such a time as it is approved by Senate, and that any future freeze, closure or amalgamation henceforth be brought to Senate before implementation.

Respectfully,

The Council of the Society of Graduate & Professional Students (SGPS) at Queen's

Cc: Dean Alistair MacLean, Dr. Mark Jones, Roxanne Dubois