To: Bilin Tsai  
From: Jean R. Perrault (SFA/UCT Chair)  
RE: UCT-Mid May Report  
Date: May 11, 2012

**SFA’s Unit Change Team**
- Kenneth Bloom (Tweed Museum of Art)  
- Lori Melton (Glensheen)  
- Wanda Pearcy (Art & Design)  
- Elias Mokole (Music)  
- Joseph Schauer (Music)  
- Rebecca Katz Harwood (Theatre)  
- Jean R Perrault (Music) *chair

**Number of meetings during the 2011-2012 academic year – Two (2)**
- Monday, November 7th at 7:00 a.m (Sara’s Table with guest Dr. Bilin Tsai)  
- Friday, May 9th at 11:30am (SFA Conference Room with guest Dean Payne)

(Many items were decided/resolved via emails and through Google Doc)

**2011-2012 UCT priority as established in our Fall 2011 report**
- “Inside the Artist’s Studio” – A new series of multifaceted informal talks about what it means to be an “Artist” in today’s world. Starting that dialogue on diversity, global perspectives and related issues will play a key role in changing the Culture and Climate on this campus.

**RE DIVERSITY**
How do we define diversity? **What should we add to the CCT’s** [Definition](link) *(if any)* that is pertinent to SFA?
- In addition to embracing diversity in the conventional socio-political sense we can make it more specific or connected to our process and ‘product’ as artists.  
- Diversity of artistic disciplines and expressions within disciplines (i.e. various genres or styles of music).  
- Each individual has something important to offer a community, when we focus on allowing each individual’s excellence to grow the larger community is enhanced. When the faculty is afforded this possibility of actualizing their potential they have a greater possibility of fostering this individual growth in their students.  
- Ultimately, the greater good of the individual creates a stronger organization as a whole.  
- Progress is a function of testing ideas and practices against other ideas and practices otherwise unfamiliar if not for exposure to diverse sources.
Why does diversity matter?
- Live in a global culture and global economy
- Cross-cultural competence (the more we know about others, the less threatening they are). Understand others to function well with others (similar idea)
- It is part of our job/mission as educators to prepare our students to live in and contribute to their communities. Understanding and valuing diversity is part of that preparation.
- Understanding diverse cultural models gives context to one’s own.

**RE THE MARCH “DIVERSITY TALK” WITH GERALDINE AND DAVID**

What do you think was the most beneficial?
- Diverse group of people stopping in to listen/chat.
- Access to all departments and public at large.
- Interview at KUMD to get the word out.
- Posters and word of mouth helped gather the crowd and questions for forum.
- Meeting as a group to work out some of the details of this type of event kept all in the loop of what is happening.
- Structure must change in accordance with the new ideas and experiences that diversity exposes us to: bureaucracy must be managed so as not to stifle change

What are some areas that needed improvement or proved difficult?
- Participation of all SFA collegiate units
- Resources (money, time, staff…)
- When we all know more information sooner, it can be passed onto to our prospective areas with more intention. This would require time so the item can be put on an all faculty meeting agenda, and possibly great interest in asking for help from graphic designers for visual posters, etc…

**RE PLANS FOR ACADEMIC YEARS 2012-2013**

First two weekends events for SFA
- The School of Fine Arts will present Kevin Kling and Simone Perrin on September 14th. This show will feature several stories around the topic of living with disability. The show will be signed, and will be making a strong reach to the differently ‘abled’ community, as was done with “The Miracle Worker” this past February.

**African Art/Music Festival (April 2-6, 2013)**
- Pianist Daryl Hollister to perform works by composers of African descent
- Catalyst Quartet (from the Sphinx Organization) to perform
- Storyteller Charlotte Blake Alston to perform with UMD Symphony Orchestra and give workshops on storytelling
- All performers will be available to interact all of the SFA Units
- ‘Call out’ to artists to submit visual artwork on the subject African Art/Music/Culture and have it hung in the lobby of the Weber Hall
- UMD Percussion Ensemble with guest artist(s)
- Other possibilities to explore
Memorandum
Page 3

- Chloe Arnold (Tap dancer)
- Diane Monroe (Jazz violinist) exploring Jazz and Spirituals
- Saint Louis African Chorus (Saint Louis, MO)
- Dance Troupe Makandal (from NYC)
- Master Drummer Sowah Mensah (from Minnesota)

RE LONG-TERM PLAN
Redesign of UMD seminar
- From 1 credit to 3 credits, integrate disciplines that would teach how to go college but also meet SFA and/or diversity credit for arts collaboration, creation and diversity
- All SFA Freshmen meet as group and ‘classes’ take place in theater, Museum and production studios…

Join with “Arts Align” idea of making May “Arts Month”
- Involvement of faculty is key due to timing of events. i.e. finals)

Winter 2014 – Collaboration between Dance and Music
- Still in preliminary stage (details TBD)

Involvement with Norshor Theatre “Grand Reopening” (Fall 2014)
- Using the space for an All SFA event
- Yearlong Project versus Short-term “Festival”

Begin a Yearly/Biennially Festival of Cultures from around the world with participation of all SFA units
- Challenges/Obstacles to an All-SFA “Diversity Festival” (other titles suggested: Taste of Traditions, Culture at Large, A touch of Tradition, Customs and Identity, Common Grounds)
  - Challenges of convincing and coordinating all departmental units
  - Tweed Gallery not able to “turn on a dime”, more lead time and resources required. With enough lead time and particular resources required, the Museum can create programs to fit SFA agenda. Commitment to diversity as reflected in University policy can become reflected in museum collection policies.
  - Issues of long term plans for SFA involvement in programming: Will SFA be one of the ‘anchor’ institutions for the Norshor? Administration of that involvement?
  - By including others in the community, we can expand our resources.

RE CHALLENGES
- Finding available meeting times for SFA-UCT to meet!!!
- Seed money for events (grants, private donations, earmarks…)
- Sustainability – being able to market events so that they eventually pay for themselves
- Human resources (staffing a “producer”)
- Recruiting and retaining faculty and students of color