

July 12, 2016

The BGSU faculty in the School of Theatre and Film and also the faculty in the American Culture Studies have reviewed the OSU Master of Arts in Film Studies and appreciate the opportunity to review the full proposal. The ACS faculty appreciate the interdisciplinary distinctions made between the OSU proposed program and the BGSU ACS program. However, the faculty in Theatre and Film would like to offer the following comments about the proposed MA degree.

While the faculty expressed no concerns regarding the curriculum or design of the MA degree, they did express concerns regarding the need for this particular degree and how the OSU faculty are defending the need for such a degree in Columbus. In particular, they state that the proposal's depiction of the future career paths and expenses for these students may be misleading. They are concerned that their suggestion that their MA is a financially wise step toward an MFA is simply an avenue for getting students to pay for two master's degrees.

They go on to state:

*It is true that the entertainment industry (theatre-film-television-new media) continues to be a growing sector of the U.S. economy. However, OSU's claims concerning "the excellence and reputation of [its] faculty, the opportunities for work with visiting filmmakers at the Wexner, and the strength of our curriculum" would be strongly disputed by faculty and filmmakers across the country.*

*For example, if one considers Chapman University, long considered a second-tier film school, it is clear that students have access to resources and filmmakers that OSU is not offering:*

<https://www.chapman.edu/dodge/>

*Equally important, Columbus has not been a film/media friendly town, and has thus been overtaken by Cleveland. <http://www.clevelandfilm.com/>*

As a result, the BGSU faculty are concerned for the need for this particular degree in central Ohio and whether students who leave the degree program will be positioned for the type of careers the proposal indicates for which they will be positioned.

Sincerely,



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