



DEPARTMENT OF

FILM & MEDIA ARTS

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS | THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

November 20, 2018

Dear Council Members,

I fully support the proposed BFA in Animation.

Though I remain committed to offering a BA in Film & Media Arts, our animators interested in a full-time career in animation have made a compelling case for the BFA and our animation faculty agrees. They need this extra time in classes to create a meaningful portfolio of work and skills in this labor-intensive field. This new degree option will serve animation students who commit to that path early in their careers well.

We will continue to offer other options for those who transfer here, declare their interest later in later years, or in conjunction with other curricular paths.

I strongly recommend approving the BFA in Animation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Kevin Hanson'.

Kevin Hanson, Chair
Film & Media Arts



September 3, 2018

This letter is in support of the proposal for a new BFA, Film and Media Arts, Animation Production Emphasis major at the University of Utah.

As an alum of the College of Fine Arts at the University of Utah; MFA, Fine Arts 1992, it was of special interest when I was informed of this proposal. Also it should be noted that I worked with the Governor's Office of Economic Development on a special committee for years trying to find ways to get more and keep more Digital Media companies in Utah. We tend to grow them for a while but then they often have to move out of the state where they can be closer to more available talent. There just isn't enough talent available here to sustain the level of this industry that we can and should have here.

As the Director of the Center for Animation at Brigham Young University, I have found that the student interest base is more than available here. I have also found that the quality of the students that we have here can successfully compete with students at all of the major Animation and Digital media programs in the world. For example: when I was on the advisory board for the animation program at UVU I highly encouraged the program to become a closed enrollment program because the sheer number of students in the program was overwhelming the ability to have a successful program. Here at BYU we always have around 150 pre- Animation Majors taking our pre-requisite classes and of those, we only have room to admit 25 and that includes transfer students from Animation schools around the country. There just aren't enough opportunities for students here to major in a program that we desperately need here if we are going to be able to attract the companies that want to be here.

After reading the proposed curriculum, I highly support the emphasis on an experiential learning nature of the major, the collaborative opportunities for both faculty and students and the interdisciplinary foundation of the curriculum. The move from and BA degree to a BFA degree really is necessary to give the students the necessary tools to compete in this industry. When we created the Animation major here at BYU I was concerned that because our students are at a University and have to take math and English and history classes that we wouldn't be able to compete with the programs in pure Art schools. With a BFA degree we have been able to compete very well and I am convinced that it would be impossible to even come close with just a BA degree. The Design Department here at BYU has a proposal to severely limit our BA in Design Degree because our students with that degree just aren't able to compete anymore with the proliferation of private art schools where the students are fully immersed in just art and design classes.

The faculty that is already in place at Utah has the passion, experience and knowledge to elevate Animation at the University of Utah if given the proper offered degree. Combining that with relationships with the flagship Computer Science program in Computer Graphics in the world, the opportunities for students there will be impressive.

I would urge you to serious consider this proposal. It is doable and needed both by the students here and the state of Utah.

Sincerely,



Richard Brent Adams
Director the Center for Animation
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Craig Caldwell, Ph.D.
College of Fine Arts , University of Utah
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August 20, 2018

Craig,

As the faculty in charge of shepherding the animation programs in the School of Arts, Communication and Media at Salt Lake Community College, I have read the proposal for the new BFA in Animation at the University of Utah. I am writing to express our support, interest, and excitement with the changes, and hope in working on creating a more official articulation in connection with this new program.

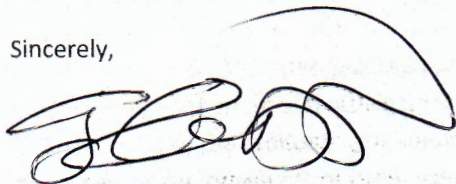
The talent of the faculty, the facilities, and the rich history of computer graphic innovation at the university is a draw for students. I hope this new program will only further enhance that legacy. In reading the proposal, I see a variety of classes that meet the interests of our students. We welcome the changes and see your program as an outlet allowing our students to spend two more years of concerted practice in their education goals.

Some concerns linger from the letter of support penned in 2012 when the University of Utah last implemented a bachelors program in animation. I was disappointed that SLCC is not included in the *Collaboration with and Impact on Other USHE Institutions* section of the proposal. We graduated over 20 students with AS and AAS degrees last year, many of them heading to the U. or competing with your students for employment. I hope that your intuition sees us as collaborating and impacting each other.

In number sequencing, many courses that UVU, BYU, and SLCC have as 1000 or 2000 level courses are 2000 and 3000 level at the University of Utah, which can make for difficult articulation. I hope you can address this before final approval of the program. Our animation program has been through eighteen years' worth of assessments, revisions, accreditation, and articulation passes. As a result, our courses provide students strong fundamental education in animation that they can bring with them to the university. We will make new courses or bend some of our curricula around to make articulation work and hope the University will be as accommodating in the pursuit of articulation. It feels that statewide articulation is not a concern for the university, but as the last public community college in the state, it is something with which we are very concerned. The more clear the pathway, the more students and our intuitions benefit.

With some dialogue and cooperation, we can find solutions to making articulation work, and I am encouraged by the possibilities. We support your goals in adjusting this program and believe they will lead to better animation education for our current, and your future students, building a stronger animation community in Salt Lake City and Utah as a whole.

Sincerely,



J. Chad Ereksen, Associate Professor
Visual Art and Design, Animation
(801) 957-3247



To: Ann Darling, Chair
Undergraduate Council

From: John Scheib, Dean
College of Fine Arts

Date: November 22, 2018

SUBJECT: Proposal for the new BFA in Film & Media Arts, Animation emphasis

I write with my full support for the Department of Film & Media Art's proposal for a new BFA with an Animation emphasis. The decision to create the emphasis is reflective of increasing student demand and labor market demand both within the state and nation-wide. Further, professional fine arts degrees (e.g., BFA, BM) already have a proven track record of success in our college—notably in the disciplines of Art, Dance, and Music—with all appropriately balancing intensive professional and scholarly work supported by a program of general studies.

The Department of Film & Media Arts faculty is well prepared to deliver the curriculum and is currently searching for a new tenure-line faculty member with expertise in Animation. The new emphasis requires no additional resources in terms of staff, facilities, or budget. At the college level, as the proposal indicates, our centralized advising structure makes it possible for us to absorb the advising for this degree without increased costs.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me.