

Wells Book Arts Center

Annual Report, September 2008

Written and submitted by Nancy Gil, Acting Director

I. Executive Summary Statement

Since September 2007, the Book Arts Center has undertaken a variety of tasks as dictated by the Assessment process itself and the Ten Year Plan.

As the new Acting Director, I have written detailed assessment documents for each of the BKRT courses we offer, including goals, course objectives, measurable learning outcomes and means of measurement. Although the documents for each course follow the same format, the information concerning goals, course objectives, etc, is taken from the most recent course syllabi. The assessment documents were then submitted to the individual faculty members for their editing and eventual approval.

In response to the Ten Year Plan, in which Book Arts said it hoped to become a major, the TYP Committee recommended that Book Arts become a third concentration in the Visual Arts Major. In late spring, I worked closely with Professor Ganis in Art History to devise a concentration in Book Arts that will dovetail with and expand the current Visual Arts Major. Having received initial approval from the Visual Arts faculty, we will take the proposal to the Arts Division this fall and then to the whole faculty for approval. We hope to be listed in the 2009-2010 Catalog as a new concentration.

In July 2008, we held our fifth annual Book Arts Summer Institute, with nine faculty from across the US and one from England. Course evaluations from participants and faculty were excellent. It should be noted that even if we become a concentration in the Visual Arts Major, the Book Arts Center would still stand alone as an auxiliary enterprise, conducting the Summer Institute and producing printed work for sale.

As mentioned above, I have extensively re-written the Assessment plan for the Book Arts Center; I am appending them to this document for easy reference.

II. Annual Assessment Review and Planning meeting

1. Meeting

Because the assessment documents for each course have just been revised, the Book Arts faculty have not yet met as a whole to discuss them.

2. Changes to be made in BAC courses

Many of the details concerning Means of Measurement of the Measurable Outcomes, especially the checklists to be used in BKRT 105, 120 and 220, will be implemented for the first time in the fall of 2008. My hope is that the faculty will meet toward the middle of the semester to see how the checklists have worked, and if they make the “measurement” of the outcomes any easier or more consistent between students.

3. Changes to be made to the assessment plan

We do not know this yet.

III. Book Arts Plan for the Upcoming Year

1. What the BAC will be doing in 2008-2009

a. Schedule of classes, new courses

One of the first things that we decide each semester is the schedule of classes for the following semester. We will continue with our regular rotation of courses in the spring semester with the addition of a Topics Course in Letterpress Printing to be taught by the Victor Hammer Fellow, Sarah Bryant.

b. Second-level courses to propose

As we look at joining the Visual Arts Major, we will need to write course proposals for second level classes in Calligraphy, Letterpress, Binding, and Digital Book Design. In addition, I want us to consider the possibility of an upper-level two-course sequence: digital book design in the fall and book production (letterpress printing and binding) of in the spring.

c. New Book Arts Concentration in the Visual Arts Major

I must presume that the Visual Arts faculty will want to meet with the BAC faculty to iron out any last details of the proposed Book Arts concentration. This should happen before mid-semester. I presume that William Ganis, the current chair of the Visual Arts Major, would chair the meeting.

IV. Updated Assessment Plan

2008-2009 will be the first year for us to work from an assessment plan.