1 YEAR FOLLOW-UP REPORT
Last Updated: January 22, 2019

Graduate Program:	**Documentary Media MFA**
Peer Review Team:	Dr. Carol Payne (Carlton University) Dr. Angelica Fenner (University of Toronto) Dr. Paul Moore (Ryerson University)
Site Visit:	February 29 and March 1, 2016
PRT Report:	April 11, 2016
Program Response:	May 11, 2016
YSGS Response:	June 1, 2016
PPR Approved by Senate:	**January 31, 2017**
1 Year Follow Up Report Due:	**January 31, 2018**

As mandated by Ryerson Senate Policy 126: Periodic Program Review of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs[1], within one year of Senate approval of the PPR, a 1 Year Follow-Up Report is to be submitted to the Faculty Dean or Dean of Record and the Vice-Provost and Dean, YSGS, on the progress of the implementation plan and any further recommendations. This follow-up report will be also be reviewed by Programs and Planning Committee, YSGS Council, and finally Senate. The PPR Report to Senate may also include a date(s) for subsequent Follow-up Reports.

What follows are the PRT recommendations, the program responses, YSGS responses, and the implementation plan, including the 1 year follow-up status reports by the program.

The recommendations are divided into two broad categories: academic and administrative/financial and for simplicity, all of this information is presented in the form of tables.

[1] https://www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/senate/policies/pol126.pdf

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Academic Recommendations	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility for Leading Follow-up	Timeline for Addressing Recommendation	Doc Media 1 year Follow=Up/ Update January 2018
i. Develop curriculum allowing for more independent work.	The GPD will work with faculty and curriculum committee to find means for students to develop individual research agendas.	Graduate Program Director, DM	January 2017	Although this has been discussed several times at faculty meetings and retreats, the faculty believe that retaining our curricular structure as it currently stands is critical. However, some flexibility remains as to electives (substitutions of other masters' electives are possible). There is also some flexibility as to the timing for certain production courses, and we have also built in more flexibility within individual courses in terms of assignments.
Administrative and Financial Recommendations	**Proposed Follow-up**	**Responsibility for Leading Follow-up**	**Timeline for Addressing Recommendation**	
i. There should be better overall promotion of the program by the university.	The GPD will work with IMA Chair, FCAD Dean and YSGS to better coordinate promotion efforts. We are also planning an "Open House" with involvement from MFA students to be pitched to 3rd and 4th year undergrads in area schools.	Graduate Program Director, DM	Fall 2016 Review in June 2018	As reported in our November 27, 2017 Graduate Program Council meeting, 3 separate promotion events were held for prospective applicants in 2017: - On Tuesday, October 3rd Documentary Media participated in the OCAD University Grad Fair along with schools from Canada, the US and UK; - On Wednesday, October 25, 2017, Doc Media held an Open House in the School of Image Arts. This was advertised on a popular arts and culture web service called Akimbo, which distributes media across Canada; - On November 7th a graduate fair was held in the School of Image Arts commons initiated by the FCAD Associate Dean, Jean Bruce with GPDs from seven master's programs in FCAD. The event was attended by approximately 100 students across programs in FCAD. In February and November 2018, informational Open House sessions were held in the School and attendance was filled to standing room only.

				The program has also been promoted in in several issues of *POV Magazine*, a publication focusing on documentary in Canada. The annual June *DocNow* Festival is one of our best means of advertising the program, through Bloor Cinema screenings, panel discussions, exhibitions, festival brochures, and, for the last two years, through promotion of *DocNow* at the annual Hot Doc Documentary Film Festival. Our students' participation in festivals such as the CONTACT Photography Festival (May 2017) and the Images Festival (April 2017) have provided further exposure.
ii. Enhance research travel funds for graduate student research and project development.	The GPD will work with FCAD Dean, YSGS and David Begg at Inter-national Office to urge shift in criteria to include research and production travel, etc.	Graduate Program Director, DM	Fall 2016 Review in June 2018	Our students continue to be challenged in obtaining travel funds for MRP-related research other than conferences (which require conference participation). Although students can access funding from the school, faculty, and YSGS for conference presentations, no other funds exist to cover research and production. It would be very valuable if criteria for travel grants could include travel for production, research, and image/video recording. One competition exists, the SF Award, to fund travel for the production of the MRP, but more would be very helpful. Given the current financial climate, however, it is going to be difficult to enhance research travel funds.
iii. Increase scholarship funding.	The GPD will work with IMA Chair, YSGS, FCAD, & Advancement officers to develop more scholarships.	Graduate Program Director, DM	Fall 2017 to Winter 2018 with Review in June 2018	While DM was in a strong position regarding OGS awards prior to 2017—with four guaranteed each year, that situation changed in 2017 with a shift in the scholarship eligibility and competition process at both the faculty and university level. The DM program has had an average of two SSHRC scholarships each year. In response to university-wide cuts in overall scholarship funding in 2018, the FCAD Dean's office has contributed to offset the losses.
iv. Provide funding for GA and RA Positions for Ryerson's only MFA – a field in which this is the terminal degree.	The GPD with work with IMA Chair, school faculty and FCAD Dean to develop more GA positions.	Graduate Program Director, DM	Fall 2016 with Review in June 2017	Two initiatives were undertaken to increase GA funding: First, the chair of the school has funded GA positions for all academic classes with enrollment of over 50 students, of which there are approximately 14. Second, as a means to provide opportunities for MFA students to GA in *practice*-based classes, the GPD applied for and obtained "special project funds" from the faculty dean in 2016 and 2017. This allowed 4 to 6 students to work each term with undergraduates on a short-term basis leading workshops, work in progress, and critiques. Because funding in the fine arts cannot keep up with funding in the STEM fields, most faculty do not have funding to hire RAs. The primary funding program at the school is through OWSP, which is restricted to undergraduates.

v. Consider further faculty hires that better reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of our students.	The GPD will work with other school GPD, IMA Chair, DHC and Dean to advocate for hires.	Graduate Program Director, DM	January 2017 with Review in June 2018.	In March 2017, the GPD applied for a Teaching with Diversity Fund grant from the Learning and Teaching office in order to spearhead research and course creation to address ethnic and cultural diversity in the faculty and curriculum. This research supported the creation of a new course with EDI focus in the Documentary Media MFA program. Centered on contemporary documentary practices and strategies employed by racialized, feminist, LGBTQ and Indigenous media artists, the research and resulting course inform students of perspectives and discourses not featured extensively in the documentary canon. With the support of the School of Image Arts Chair and the FCAD Dean, Trinidad-born artist-scholar Michèle Pearson Clarke, Ryerson MFA alumna and rising star in the Canadian art scene, was hired to research and develop curriculum, and ultimately, to teach the course. "**CD8351: Documentary as Oppositional Practice: Identity, Power, Difference, and Representation"** is now offered as a graduate interdisciplinary elective, open to graduate students in FCAD. Efforts continue to hire CUPE faculty with diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. EDI is always a strong consideration in the visiting artists, guest lecturers, and masterclass visitors. Since the PPR report was filed, there have been two RFA female faculty members hired. In 2017 an award-winning documentary filmmaker was hired and is now teaching in the DM program. In spring 2018 a Photography Program faculty member was hired (only the second female RFA member in the Photography Program). A RFA hire which addresses the lack of ethnic and cultural diversity in the school remains a priority, but despite strong efforts, this has not yet been fulfilled.
vi. Provide funding for the faculty-run Documentary Media Research Centre.	The GPD will work with IMA Chair, and FCAD Associate Dean and Dean and DMRC to develop proposals for funding a research chair or distinguished visiting professor for DMRC.	Graduate Program Director, DM	January 2017 with Review in June 2018.	In 2016-17, DMRC Director Blake Fitzpatrick and GPD Katy McCormick worked with colleague Richard Lachman in RTA School of Media to facilitate a three-year Distinguished Visiting Professor position for award-winning filmmaker **Kat Cizek**, starting January 2018. Visiting scholar and member of the "Co-Creation Incubator at Open Documentary Lab" at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cizek will lead collaborations with MIT that we hope will also engage our students, and she will give guest lectures. In Fall 2018, The DMRC was funded for a second time by the FCAD SRC Dean. The DMRC has sponsored many valuable events including: **Winter 2016**

Continued… Provide funding for the faculty-run Documentary Media Research Centre.				***International Conference: Toronto-Montréal-Lille: The Inventions Of Light / Les Inventions De La Lumière*,** February 24-26, 2016: This bilingual conference was the 6th edition of the Toronto/Montreal/Lille biennial of artistic exchange. Titled *The Inventions of Light / Les Inventions de la Lumière*, the conference focused on what light makes possible in the parallel realms of perception and creative imagination. The overall goal of the three-day conference was to explore the "inventions of light" collectively and to develop an interdisciplinary approach to the many inventions that light has generated in painting, photography, cinema, animation, and digital arts. **Spring/Summer 2016:** ***Scholar in Residence: Anandana Kapur*,** Summer/Fall, 2016: From June until October, award-winning filmmaker and PhD student Anandana Kapur was a visiting scholar at the DMRC. ***VISIBLE EVIDENCE Conference, XXIII*,** August 11-14, Bozeman, Montana: Dr. Gerda Cammaer, Dr. Blake Fitzpatrick and Dr. Bruno Lessard represented the DMRC at the 23rd international documentary conference Visible Evidence, held at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana (US). They presented a panel titled "Critical Distance" that became the basis for an edited collection of scholarly essays on contemporary documentary, published by Palgrave Macmillan (2018). Winter 2017: ***Martin Weinhold: IN CANADIAN WORKSPACES:*** DMRC member Don Snyder curated photographer Martin Weinhold's decade-long investigation of labour in Canada. The project was exhibited at the Ryerson Artspace Gallery at the Gladstone in September, 2017. Fall 2018: **Publication: *Critical Distance in Documentary Media*** DMRC members Gerda Cammaer, Blake Fitzpatrick, and Bruno Lessard published a collection of essays titled *Critical Distance in Documentary Media* (Palgrave Macmillan, 340 pages).

vii. Enhance or create studio spaces, allowing for better access to resources.	The GPD will work with IMA Chair, faculty and operations manager to develop solutions to meet curricular needs in this area.	Graduate Program Director, DM	Fall 2016 with Review June 2017.	Studio/work spaces are currently under construction in a planned repurposing of our first-floor darkrooms. An IMA initiative funded by FCAD, these work/studio spaces will be shared between graduate and undergraduate programs; however, they will greatly expand DM students' ability to plan, edit, build, and layout exhibitions and MRP projects.
viii. Adjust faculty workload and provide recognition/credit for graduate supervisions.	The GPD will work with IMA Chair, and FCAD Associate Dean and Dean to develop proposals for workload solutions for the school.* **Pending ratification of a new 2+2 workload the question of supervisory compensation is resolved.*	Graduate Program Director, DM	Fall 2017 with Review in June 2018	In Fall 2016, the GPD participated as a member of the Departmental Workload Process Committee to propose a shift to a 2 + 2 workload (from a 2 + 3 load). In March 2017, the FCAD Dean approved the plan to move to the new workload. It should be noted that with the shift to a 2+2 workload, no credit system was put in place for graduate supervisions, as it is considered part of teaching in the collective agreement.

Summary Statement/Conclusion: In conclusion, we thank the external reviewers and colleagues in DM for a very thorough assessment of the strengths and challenges of the DM program. The PRT recommendations and DM's responses raise important points regarding the program, and the discussion of these will only have a positive development in the evolution of the program.