

Media Studies  
Photography Department  
Advisory Committee Minutes  
December 5, 2014

Meeting began at Noon in the Photography classroom in the F building.

Present:

Grant Brittain— Photographer and editor of The Skateboard Mag

Larry McDaniel-George's Camera

John Durant—Architectural Photographer; Commercial, Editorial

Robert Barry—Faculty

Donna Cosentino—Faculty

Paul Sittmann—Laboratory Technician

Absent committee members:

Don Bartletti—LA Times Photojournalist (on assignment)

The meeting began with friendly introductions and Donna handed out copies of our school newspaper, The Telescope, and our school magazine, Impact. She also discussed the student show, Enlightened Lens 2014, which was set to open December 13. There were congratulatory comments from the committee about the quality of the student-produced work.

Paul Sittmann addressed the professionals and said that their support and participation in coming to this meeting is an especially meaningful contribution for us. The Photo department is dependent on their expertise and recommendations to keep us current in the field. He described how subsequent Carl Perkins grants provide students with badly needed equipment. Bob and Donna mentioned that it also benefits the faculty through materials and seminars we take for more successful teaching of our courses. The staff wanted to make sure that they were aware of how appreciative we all are.

We then took the group through our newly remodeled print-finishing facility which was busy with students working. We made sure the committee realized that some of the equipment in this space was purchased with moneys from the Perkins Grant.

We also took the group through our studio. A student was working and we were able to show them the set-up. John thought it was a fine set up for teaching, and said that showing the students how to deal with a studio that was not completely up-to-date demonstrates 'real world' situations to them. He did mention some studio needs that would move us forward and Larry mentioned constant light sources and that the company would visit us and do a demo.

Bob and Donna took the group on a tour of the digital classroom, MD223. In this classroom we showed them some of the equipment they also helped us purchase in the past and students were using this equipment during our visit. A discussion about the Photo-based programs we use on the MACs and also about our aging printer and scanner situation took place while we watched the students at work.

All agreed we have no display situation in this room for the student work. Adding a rail to place mounted images on was discussed. They were surprised there was no way to display images for critique in the classroom.

We left MD223 and returned to a working lunch where we continued our discussion. We resumed our talk about printers and scanners and Grant mentioned that Chrome uses the same flatbed scanner (V700) that we do and everyone thought it was the best choice out there for our school use when we ask for replacements.

The talk turned to our camera and lens needs. We asked for feedback regarding specific cameras. The committee thought a Canon 5D-style camera with good video capabilities would be appropriate for our use. Also mentioned, and committee agreed, was our need for more cameras for students use in digital *and* film. Larry said Canon T5 digital cameras are capable cameras for student use and Paul mention that the Nikon film cameras the students now use have held up well but we don't have enough. John said that shooting film is a great way to introduce students to photographic techniques and the committee agreed that these would be the suitable choices.

Donna mentioned the requirement for our Photojournalism students to have a 70-200 2.8 lens available to them as well as other fast lenses for shooting in low-light situations such as the Palomar dome and night football games. Grant said these are a must.

Grant asked about our fine art certificate and what are we offering for alternative possibilities. Bob said we plan to teach Photogravure and Carbon printing when we get our room set up. Grant asked about wet collodion. Donna said she took a wet plate collodion workshop with Ian Ruhter through the Perkins Grant last year and wants to do more so that we can add this to our program. Grant said that collodion is becoming very popular and that it absolutely should be taught.

John asked about internships and Donna thought that having students intern with professional photographers such as he would be fantastic. John said he would work with Donna to try to make this happen. Donna said she would find out about internships for credit through Palomar.

John asked about how we market our program. We all agreed there needs to be more of a presence on all social media and the web. He calls us scrappy and determined and said that we ARE different from other programs and have to play on that. We discussed the need to get our program website up and running. Grant suggested that we ask well-known alumni to contribute to the website with images and endorsements. Donna thought that working photographers who have visited us like John Sexton and Bil Zelman might offer up some help. John said that the Professional Practices class is a must and that all students should take it. Bob said it is a now a requirement.

John said other ways that we might get help is through ASMP and APA and Larry mentioned other professional groups. Larry also mention MAC on Campus and CPS for insurance.

Larry also mentioned that we should check out the possibilities for partnering with MoPA and Bob mentioned the Center for Creative Photography. Donna said she would check into the possibilities for creating relationships with these museums.

The meeting ended with our thanks to everyone for their generous gift of time and expertise and the end of the meeting was called at 3:00pm.