

SUBJECT REVIEW REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS



SRI PALEE CAMPUS

26th to 28th March 2008

Review Team :

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Acknowledgements

The Review Team appreciates the excellent working arrangement made by the department during the review visit. The staff members understand about the review process and displayed all necessary documents to assist our review. Whenever the Review Team needed more information or documents the Head of the Department and the Academic Staff provided the same. The non – academic staff too facilitated our process with the common objective towards the development of the department. The Review Team is grateful to all the categories of staff in the department for the support given during our visit.

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1. SUBJECT REVIEW PROCESS

Higher education is a ‘public good’ is of crucial importance to health, wealth and well being of the society and the economy. Universities must conscientiously exercise their responsibility for quality and standard. University accountability for quality and standards is a key factor in promoting and safeguarding public confidence in Sri Lankan higher education. Subject review evaluates the quality of education within a specific subject or discipline. It is focused on the quality of student learning experience and on student achievement and is designed to evaluate the quality of both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

Subject review process is introduced by the committee of Vice – Chancellors and Directors (CVCD) and the University Grants Commission (UGC). The Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council (QAAC) of the UGC is now conducting subject reviews and institutional reviews in Sri Lanka universities. The following Review Team has been appointed by the QAAC to perform the subject review of the Department of Performing Arts (PA), Sri Palee Campus of the University of Colombo from 26th to 28th March 2008.

- Prof. Jayasena Kotegoda, UVPA
- Mr. Kolitha Bhanu Dissanayake, UVPA
- Prof. S. Mohanadas

Key features of the subject review process are preparation of a Self Evaluation Report (SER) by the department on the discipline they teach, and the evaluation of the student learning experience and on student achievement in the subject according to the aims and learning outcomes as states in SER by the subject review team (Review Team).

SER of the Dept. of Performing Arts (PA) along with the Dept. of Mass Media, Sri Palee Campus, University of Colombo was submitted to the members of the Review Team requested to perform the subject review.

The Review Team evaluated the quality of education in the Dept. of PA according to the aims and learning outcomes as claimed in their SER. The purpose of the visit was to consider and test the evidence provided by the department.

At 8.30 am on the 26th March 2008 the Review Team arrived at the campus and had private meeting for half – an – hour along with QA Specialist to be familiarized with the subject review process. At 9.00 am the Review Team was invited by the Head of the Department of PA for a welcome meeting by the Acting Rector of the Campus who welcomed the Review Team and briefed about the quality assurance activities of the campus. Thereafter the Review Team met the staff of the department. The agenda for the review process was finalized. During the morning session Ms.M.D Kumuduni Maddumage, Head of the Department gave a presentation which comprehensively covered the progress made by the Department on all aspects included in the SER in the presence of all members of the academic staff of the department. The review process was thereafter progressed by the Review Team according to the agenda (Annex – 1)

The review Team held meeting with the following groups individuals.

- Head of Dept. of PA
- Academic staff members
- Non- academic staff members
- Undergraduate students

- Academic advisors, students counselors, and coordinators ELTU and computer studies.

The review Team visited the following places for observation.

- Lecture halls with teaching equipments
- Computer laboratories & equipments
- Special musical laboratories & equipments
- Department staff rooms
- Campus library
- Arundathi auditorium

Lecture halls were visited again when the students were following lectures.

The review Team went through the following documents.

1. Student Handbook
2. Tutorials and assignments
3. List of examiners
4. Question papers, marking schemes with the comments of the moderations
5. Answer script marked by the examiners
6. Course unit mark sheets
7. Records of allocation of lectures, practical & tutorials, computer laboratory logbook, names of students counselors and personal tutors.

The review Team at the end of the 3-day-visit made judgment on each of the eight aspects namely (1) curriculum design, content and review (11) teaching, learning and assessment methods (111) quality of students including student progress and achievement (iv) extent and use of student feedback, qualitative and quantitative (v) postgraduate studies (vi) peer observation (vii) skills development and (viii) academic guidance and counseling. On this day stated whether each of these eight aspects is good or satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

2. BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CAMPUS THE DEPARTMENT

The Kalutara District where the Sri Palee campus is situated can be considered a semi developed area, consisting of 762 villages and 14 suburban towns. Demographically it has a population of 1,060,800 with 85% Sinhala, 3% Tamil, 8% Muslims and 3% Burghers. Nearly 33% of this population depends on government subsidies. 40% possess telephones, and 30% has the electricity facility. The main sources of income of the people are, the rubber industry related employment, traditional rice cultivation, mining industries, garment industry cultivation of small tea and rubber plantations, and fibber, fishing and tourist industries.

There are 462 schools with a student population of 198,810 in the district and approximately 3000-4000 drop out from schools every year. The literacy rate in the area is 92.3%.

A 33-acre site with an administrative blocks, lecture halls, and other building were donated to, Institute of Aesthetic Studies, University of Kelaniya in 1976 by a well-known philanthropist of the area and a famous politician Mr. Wilmot A. Perera. This site had been a breeding ground for the traditional craftsmen, musicians, dancers and dramatists of the area till it was donated to Kelaniya University. Mr. Perera was influenced by the great Indian philosopher Rabindranath Tagore's caliber. The creation of this great seat of learning in the

same style, as the Shanthi Niketan of India was the result of that influence. It is situated about 200 to 300 meters above sea level in Horana approximately 50 kilometers from the capital. The campus is located on a small hillock with picturesque setting, surrounded by paddy fields, rubber estates, and isolated villages. This scenic splendor is highly conductive to higher studies since it has the ability to cool down the frail nerves warmed up by examination tension and create the right atmosphere for reflective thinking. The single-site campus, just a mile from the Horana town, is set in over 33 acres of beautiful hilly land. The campus, which was affiliated to Kelaniya University till 1996, had been a center for aesthetic studies in which only aesthetic related course modules were taught. The campus had always been dedicated to train artist of the highest international standards. The campus became a part of the University of Colombo in 1996, has a national and international reputation as a provider of high quality education for students who study media and performing arts programmes.

Sri palee campus comprises two departments.

1. Department of Mass Media
2. Department of Performing Arts

Department of Performing Arts, offers four years special degree in performing Arts. It incorporated both the theoretical and practical components of three subject areas known as Music, Dancing and Drama & Theatre. The department maintain the semester system.

At present there are 125 students studying in this department as follows,

Year of studying	No. of Student
First year	51
Second year	24
Third year	26
Forth year	24
Total	125

Result of the past four years

Academic year	Normal Pass	Second Lower	Second Upper	First Division
2002/2003	09	11	07	-
2000/2001	19	19	08	-
2001/2002				
1999/2000	04	06	06	-
1998/1999	05	05	01	-
Total	37	41	22	

Percentages getting divisional pass

1998/1999	66%
1999/2000	76%
2000/2001	58%
2001/2002	
2002/2003	66%

There are only six permanent academic staff and one clerical staff member in the department.

Qualification of the academic staff

Name and qualification	Position(as in March 2007)	Year of the first appointment	Field (s) of specialization	Activity description: (a) teaching (b) administrative responsibilities and (c) membership
Ms. M.D.Kumuduni Maddumage B.A.,(Keleniya) P.G.Dip in Ed, P.G.Dip in Ed (Drama) (Colombo) M.A, (J.pura)	Head of the Department	2001	Drama and Theatre	(a) Offer lectures to Undergraduates in Drama and Theatre and Performing Arts (b) Conduct practical lessons on Dancing and Performing Arts (c) Student Counselor
Ms. Upekha Gangodawila B.A.,(Keleniya)	Lecturer	1999	Dancing Performing Arts	(a) Offer lectures to Undergraduates in Drama and Theatre and Performing Arts (b) Conduct practical lessons on dancing and Performing Arts (c) Student Counselor
Mr. Bhagesri Fonseka B.A, M.A, (Delhi) M.A,(Japan)	Lecturer	1999	Music	(a) Offer lectures to Undergraduates in Drama and Theatre and Performing Arts (b) Conduct practical lessons on Dancing and Performing Arts Student Counselor
	Lecturer	2003	Dancing	(a) Offer lectures to Undergraduates in Drama and Theatre and Performing Arts (b) Conduct practical lessons on Dancing and Performing Arts (c) Student Counselor
Ms. K.D.L Manaranjani B.A.,(Keleniya)	Lecturer	1999	Music	(a) Offer lectures to Undergraduates in Musicology

M.A.(B.H.U) P.G.Dip in Ed, P.G.Dip in Archaeology				
Mr. Priyantha Fonseka B.A.,(Peradeniya)	Lecturer	1999	Cinema, Drama and theater	(a) Offer lectures to Undergraduates in Cinema, Drama and Theater, Performing Arts (b) Student Counselor

Additional staff involved in teaching includes 70 Visiting lecturers.

Facilities

Most of the electrical academic support services are available in the campus.

- ❖ The campus has got media laboratory with the modern equipment for use of the students who follows audio and video programme.
- ❖ The campus also has a computer laboratory with fully equipped modern updated computers and internet facilities.
- ❖ The campus also has a suitable theatRE hall with some lighting facilities but not sufficient.
- ❖ The campus library is a separate building and having more than 50000 books. At least the lending section has approximately 20000 books.
- ❖ Many lecture rooms are having visual equipments to support the teaching and learning activities.

3. AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

3.1 Aims

- ❖ It is earnest aim to ensure the production of fully fledged performing artist professional who can cater the needs of the national and global masses.
- ❖ Functioning as a performing arts institute in Sri lanka establishing a theoretical and practical academic that teaches performing arts.
- ❖ Establishing and developing the concept of performing arts in Sri lanka.
- ❖ Developing social, political, cultural and ethnic harmony through the subject.

3.2 Learning Outcomes

- ❖ Gained knowledge and conceptual understanding of areas of performing arts based on programmed that provide initial broad framework followed by progressively increasing depth of study.
- ❖ Acquired practical, technical and intellectual skills necessary for the performing stage in national and global context.
- ❖ Obtained knowledge and understanding of performing studies; Dancing, Music and Drama & Theatre.
- ❖ Learnt how this knowledge and understanding can be applied to research and through that the national development.

4. FINDING OF THE REVIEW TEAM

4.1 Curriculum Design, Content and Review

Curriculum has been designed totally 43 course units which contained 26 main course units, 06 foundation course units and 11 elective course units. Drama and music students follow totally one subject continuously as a main subject through out the four years. But the dancing students have to follow semester by semester by changing different style of dances like Kandyan dance, Sabaragamuwa dance, Low Country dance and drumming too.

The Review Team proposes that first year and second year to be introduced with different kind of dancing styles and last two years be devoted for one main subject from the different dances they learnt during first and second year. This will increase the duration of study by the students to their main subject. It will be a benefit to the students who are willing to joint the schools as teachers in their future.

In the selection of elective course units the students have no option but to select one subject in which has been introduced by the department. Elective means the students have the freedom for selecting their subjects which related to the course and fulfill the knowledge of allied art fields. But this freedom is not given to the students.

Therefore the Review team proposes to introduce different kinds of subjects (Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kathakali, Manipuri, Modern Dance, Ballet, Folk dance etc. Drawing studio, cinema, film editing, videography, image arts, Recording arts, stage lighting, costume & makeup) to be selected by the students year by year as they desire.

Given here is an example for the dance students, and like wise the other subjects also should be done.

The indicating numbers of the course units are to be corrected to include the number of credits of the course units, which are gained by the students; It should show with five digits.

At present the department offers only 15 hours for a one credit course in practical. It should be increased to 30 – 45 practical hours for one credit. In their degree Programmer a student have to follow seven main practical courses for their total duration of four years. At present the department spends only 315 hours duration and this should be increased to $7 \times 3 \times 30 = 630$ hours, to gain 21 credits in practical.

Like wise eleven elective course units have to be completed by the students in with four years. According to departmental tradition students are spending only 495 hours instead of 990 hours. The Review Team proposes that also to be corrected.

Final year students are have to complete a production project and a research dissertation spending long time duration and getting only three credits each is insufficient.

The Review Team proposes to increase the credit limit of these two projects.

Academic area of the subjects which are relevant to performing arts to be expanded to more practical components by 6 giving more practical hours.

The view of the Review Team is that the Curriculum design, Content and review is Satisfactory.

4.2 Teaching Learning and Assessment Methods.

Academic areas of the subjects which are relevant to performing arts to be expanded according to more practical components, giving more practical lecture hours.

Understanding about music, Dance and Drama to be enriched through the specific ideology of the subject. Cultural, Social ethnic and heritage background of these subjects to be observed by the students in a wider range.

The view of the Review Team is that the Teaching Learning and Assessment Methods is Satisfactory

4.3 Quality of Students including Student Progress and Achievement

- I. According to the Curriculum proposals granted by the department have many areas in performing Arts. Due to the problems in the course design, it is difficult to become as a performer in Dance and Music.
- II. Student should specialize up Country, Low country or sabaragamuwa dance traditions or a system of world recognized music to serve as a school teacher.
- III. More lecture hours and practical hours to be allocated to grain their performing abilities, which can be enriched carrier of performing.

The view of the Review Team is that the Quality of students including student progress and achievement is Satisfactory.

4.4 Extent and Use of Student Feedback

Student's feedback is obtained by Dept. of PA only by qualitative method about the quality of academic programmes, teaching and learning processes and the quality of other facilities. The department acquires student's feedback at the discussions in the practical sessions/ tutorials where a close interaction is possible. Students also stated that they express their view at various meeting or to the Head of the Department on curriculum revision, selection criteria whenever necessity arises. At these occasions students' suggestions on all matters of quality of education were received by the authorities.

This is no practice or procedure to obtain quantitative students' feedback by the department. Quantitative students' feedback is a vital indicator to measure the student experience on the learning process of a particular course unit or module delivered by an

academic member. The teacher makes use of it to judge the students' satisfaction on the mode of delivery of the lecture as well as on the quality of the course unit or module. Quantitative students' feedback shall be obtained by an academic staff yearly for every course unit delivered by him/ her. Hence progress could be measured.

The view of the Review Team is that the Extent and use of student Feedback is Satisfactory.

4.5 Postgraduate Studies

There are 04 academic staff with postgraduates qualification and hence Posgraduate studies shall be started as soon as possible.

The view of the Review Team is that Postgraduate Studies is *Unsatisfactory*

4.6 Peer Observation

The departmentm do not follow any procedure to observe the theory or practical class teaching of an academic staff by another academic staff member of the department.

This peer observation report shall be obtained at least once for an academic and the progress has to be monitored annually. The peer observation practice may be extended to all part-time & visiting staff as well. The reports of the peer observation and students feedback have to be correlated to the staff development programme required for an academic staff member.

The practices such as moderation of question papers, second marking of the answer script are being carried out. Evolution of the presentation, viva and seminar is also done by a group of academic staff. The comments made by the external moderator, second marking examiner and external member in viva and other presentation has to be taken up at staff meeting for further improvement in the quality of teaching and evaluating processes.

The view of the Review Team is that Peer Observation is *Unsatisfactory*.

4.7 Skill development

The department has taken several steps to improve generic skills as well as subjects specific skills of their graduates, as mentioned in the curriculum design. These skills include preparation skills, organization skills, production skills and research skills.

All students in their degree programmes are expected to submit a dissertation in their final year. One of the main objectives of this activity is to develop research skills such as data collection, data analysis and report writing skills.

The students have to complete a production project also in their final year. Before that they have to gain guidance in the second year by completing a course unit of production planning in Performing Arts. In the first semester of final year also they follow a production designing course units to get more training in production skills.

In other way it may be a good stage to improve their skill training of creative work and production. The students from all years are given an opportunity to present some creative work and presentations in the class room, and receive peer and staff feedback getting opportunities to practice their skills through out the course.

The view of the Review Team is that Skill development is *Satisfactory*.

4.8 Academic Guidance and Counseling

Most senior staff member of the campus have been appointed as Senior Student Counselor who belongs to the Dept. of Mass Media. However four members of the Dept. of PA have been appointed as student counselors. The student Handbook and Academic Calendar are made available to students. Every student has the opportunity to meet the Student

Counselors or any academic staff of the department to obtain advice regarding selection of elective courses. Fresher at the beginning of their campus studies were give an orientation programme where the Vice Chancellor of the University, Rector of the Campus, Senior Student Counselor, Student Counselors and Heads of Departments address the new comers and gave appropriate guidance.

Whenever the students face personal problems they meet the student counselors or any members of the academic staff of the department to find out a solution. There is no professional counseling available at the campus. Whenever students encounter financial or accommodation problems, the Student Counselors direct the students to the administrative section of the campus for assistance. The Review Team noted that the Office of the Student Counselor is not properly organized. Students expressed dissatisfaction on the non availability of change room for practical classes, non availability of extended hours for practice for special programmes, poor communication between hostel warden and administration and the delay in release of results.

The view of the Review Team is that Academic Guidance and Counseling is Satisfactory.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The strength/ good practices and weakness identified in each of the aspects of evaluation of this review are summarized bellow.

5. 1 Curriculum Design, Content and Review

Strengths/ Good practices:

Curriculum has been designed on the basis of credit-based course modular system. Course prescribed for special degree programme cover a wide range of subjects. Several new subjects have been introduced.

Weaknesses:

The number of hours for a credit in practical is different from the standard practice. Learning on main subject do not continue in the whole programmed specially in dance subject.

5. 2 Teaching, Learning and Assessment Method

Strengths/ Good practices

Assessment comprises of assignments, project evaluation and semester end examinations.

Weaknesses:

Non availability of course outlines and course guides prevents achievement of successful learning process. No sufficient internal academic staff.

5. 3 Quality of Student including Student Progress and Achievements

Strengths/ Good practices

High performance levels recorded at the final examinations are a good indicator of the students quality

Weaknesses:

Department does not maintain a database to monitor the progress of its graduates.

5. 4 Extent and use of student Feedback

Strengths/ Good practices:

- ❖ The Department obtains students' feedback qualitatively.

Weaknesses:

- ❖ The Department do not obtain students' feedback quantitatively by using evaluation forms (questionnaire)

5. 5 Postgraduate Studies

No postgraduate programmes conducted by the department

5.6 Peer Observation

Strengths/ Good practices:

- ❖ The department follows a procedure to moderate the question papers and second marking of the answer script or group marking of the practical performance by fellow academic within and outside the campus.

Weaknesses:

- ❖ There is no peer observation process practiced for either theory or practical classes. The importance of peer observation has not been perceived by the department.

5.7 Skill Development

The establishment of critics forum and the creative forum are very useful in skills development among students.

5.8 Academic Guidance and Counselling

Strengths/ Good practices:

- ❖ Availability of students' Handbook and Academic Calendar
- ❖ There is an organized student guiding and counseling system.

Weaknesses:

- ❖ There is no professional counseling service organized for students.
- ❖ The office of the student counselor is not organized.

The judgment given for the eight aspects of the subjects review are summarized below.

Aspect Reviewed	Judgment Given
Curriculum Design, Contest and review	Satisfactory
Teaching, Learning and Assessment Method	Satisfactory
Quality of student including student Progress and Achievements	Satisfactory
Extent and use of student feedback, Qualitative and Quantitative	Satisfactory
Postgraduate Studies	Un satisfactory
Peer Observation	Un satisfactory
Skill Development	Satisfactory
Academic Guidance and Counseling	Satisfactory

The overall judgment is suspended

6. RECOMMENDATION

1. The Review Team would like to make the following recommendation in order to improve the quality of education in the Dept. of PA.
2. During the third and final year students shall devote more time on learning main practical subject.
3. Teaching hours should be calculated at the basis of 30-45 hours for one credit for practical.
4. Staff should be encouraged to use modern teaching technology and lecture handouts when conducting lectures and practical.
5. Opportunities may be given to the students to select their optional course units year by year as they desire.
6. The comments, suggestions and other feedback obtained from the moderators of the question papers and second examiner shall be taken up for discussions at appropriate forums such as result boards, departmental meeting and curriculum review committee meeting.
7. The assignments submitted by student should be returned to them with assigned grades and comments.
8. The department shall adopt some procedure to obtain students' feedback quantitatively serve/ evaluate the theory and practical class teaching of an academic staff by another member of the academic staff of the department, may be by using a questionnaire.

9. The response obtained by students' feedback and peer observation of an academic staff can be correlated to a staff development programme.
10. The office of the student counselor shall be organized to maintain confidentiality.
11. The department may consider conducting fee-levying programmes leading to certificate or diploma in PA that would uplift the teaching and recognition of the department.
12. Recruitment of a technician and a hall attendant is recommended to handle teaching equipment such as multimedia, OHP and the other arrangements in the class room.
13. The Cultural Center Shall be reactivated.
14. Direct Telephone and internet facilities be printed to library.
15. Change rooms be provided to dancing student.

7. ANNEXES

Annex 1. AGENDA FOR THE REVIEW VISIT

DAY 1 – 26 March 2008

- 08.30 - 09.00 Private Meeting of Review Panel QAA Council Representative
09.00 - 09.30 Discuss the Agenda for the visit
09.30 - 10.30 Meeting (s) with the vice Chancellor/ Chairman, Internal QA unit/ Dean Head of the Dept/ Head, Faculty QA Cell etc. (Working Tea)
10.30 - 11.30 Department Presentation on the Self evolution Report
11.30 - 12.30 Discussion
12.30 - 13.30 *Lunch*
13.30 - 14.30 Observing Department Facilities
14.30 - 15.30 Observing Other Facilities (Library, Computer Centre, Farms etc.)
15.30 - 16.30 Meeting with Department Academic Staff
16.30 - 17.30 Meeting with Undergraduate Students
17.30 - 18.30 Brief Meeting of Reviews

DAY 2 – 27 March 2008

- 08.30 - 09.00 Observing Teaching - Lecture
09.00 - 09.30 Observing Teaching - Lecture
09.30 - 10.30 Observing Document (Working Tea)
10.30 - 11.30 Meeting with Technical Staff and other Non – Academic staff
11.30 - 12.30 Meeting with Postgraduate Students
12.30 - 13.30 *Lunch*
13.30 - 14.00 Observing Teaching - Lecture
14.00 - 14.30 Observing Teaching - Lecture
14.30 - 15.00 Observing student' Presentation
15.00 - 15.30 Observing Teaching - Practical Class
15.30 - 16.30 Meeting with special Degree Students
16.30 – 17.00 Brief Meeting of Reviews

DAY 3 – 28 March 2008

- 09.00 - 09.30 Observing Teaching – Practical Class
09.00 - 09.30 Observing Teaching - Practical Class
10.00 - 10.30 Meeting Student Counselors/ Academic Advisors/ Personal Tutors
10.30 - 11.00 Reviewers Private Discussion
11.00 - 12.00 Meeting with Head and Staff for Reporting
12.00 - 13.00 *Lunch*
13.00 - 17.00 Report Writing

Annex 2. LIST OF DOCUMENT

1. Presentation by Head of Department
2. Syllabus
3. Student's Matters
4. Outstations' Practical
5. Academic Staff Qualification
6. Academic Calendar
7. Final Exam Result
8. Assignment
9. Thesis
10. Student Activities document
11. Time Table
12. Visiting Staff & Hours
13. Aptitude Test
14. Notice