

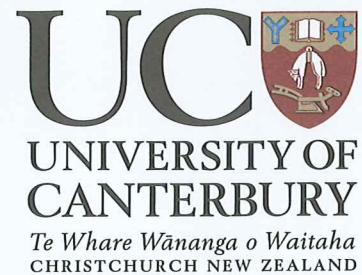
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16 April 2012

Joshua Grainger
via email requests@fyi.org.nz

Dear Joshua

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 12.09

I refer to your e-mail dated 30 March 2012. In answer to your questions:

1. We are now able to release the change proposal as the affected parties have been briefed. You will find it at the following web address www.canterbury.ac.nz/hr under "News" on the right hand side.
2. The change proposal contains all the analysis of the situation.
3. There was no written communication with external agencies around this change proposal, although the Tertiary Education Commission is briefed regularly on all major matters.
4. We have attached a 2 page document related to this. All 25 programmes within the College of Arts were investigated. Three have been included in the change proposal.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Tom Norcliffe', written in a cursive style.

Tom Norcliffe
Information and Records Manager

FAQ'S for Students: College of Arts Change Proposal

1) What is the background to the proposal?

The College of Arts at the University of Canterbury faces a critical moment in funding and support as a result of the recent series of earthquakes in the Christchurch region and the consequential significant losses in student numbers. These losses have had a significant impact on Arts, which has sustained a larger percentage of EFTS decline than any of the other four colleges at the University. Because of an immediate requirement to shrink its budget, the College is compelled to make some difficult decisions about which programmes of study currently on offer should continue to be supported.

2) What are the proposed changes?

The College of Arts released a change proposal on 26 March 2012 proposing the disestablishment of Theatre and Film Studies, American Studies and Cultural Studies.

It is important to note that no decisions have been made at this time. The consultation process commenced on 26 March 2012 and extends until 18 May 2012.

3) Why have these changes been proposed?

The College of Arts cannot sustain the current wide range of programmes and is having to make some tough choices. This is not about the quality of programmes. A brief rationale is summarized below:

- i) **Theatre and Film Studies (TAFS):** The College of Arts is unable to adequately resource TAFS' performance and teaching related costs, including performance facilities. Without adequate levels of resource, the College is faced with challenges in respect to supporting TAFS. Examples include: offering the array of courses necessary to address its educational goals, and mitigating issues relating to course coverage during academic leave.
- ii) **American Studies (AMST):** It is increasingly rare to have a stand-alone American Studies Programme. Areas of study and research pertaining to North America are addressed in the traditional disciplines of the College. As the study of America embraces many disciplines, the programme is not essential to the BA degree. There is a low level of interest from undergraduate students in the major and only a small number of post-graduate enrolments.
- iii) **Cultural Studies (CULT):** This programme is virtual, with no staff. It produces only a small number of graduates.

4) In terms of the student body, who might these changes affect, should a decision be made to proceed with the proposal?

No changes will be made to 2012 courses as a result of the proposal. Changes to semester two courses, may however, occur due to normal university processes (such as low enrolment courses or the illness of the lecturer).

At the time of releasing the proposal, the programmes had the following student numbers:

TAFS

- i) has 34.8 EFTS (equivalent full time students) at undergraduate and post graduate level
- ii) This is 1.5% of the total EFTS in Arts this year
- iii) There are 5 students enrolled in a PhD and 4 in a Masters degree
- iv) In 2011 6 students graduated with a BA major in TAFS, 3 with a minor

AMST

- i) has 24.8 EFTS (equivalent full time students) undergraduate and post graduate enrolled in AMST. Note this only includes those students enrolled in the AMST component of co-coded courses.
- ii) This is 1% of the total EFTS in Arts this year.
- iii) There are 3 Ph D students and 1 Masters student currently enrolled.
- iv) In 2011 8 students graduated with A BA major in AMST, 6 with a minor.

CULT

- i) has 14.5 EFTS enrolled in CULT.
- ii) this is 0.6% of the total EFTS in Arts this year.
- iii) There are currently 5 PhD students enrolled, all have supervisors in English and LACL with 1 Masters student.
- iv) In 2011 5 students graduated with a BA major in CULT and 6 with a minor

5) As a student taking one of the programmes proposed for disestablishment, what is the potential impact on me, should a decision be made to proceed with the proposal?

If this proposal proceeds, those students who have identified that they plan to major or minor in either TAFS, AMST or CULT will need to be assisted to complete their BA. Students may be able to be appropriately accommodated in other majors on a case by case basis. Arrangements would need to be put in place to accommodate those graduate and postgraduate students on an individual basis and in discussion with the students concerned.

Procedures for addressing this issue beyond the end of the 2012 academic year will be clarified if a decision is made to proceed with the proposal.

Additionally, for CULT students, given that most Cultural Studies papers are double-coded, there are a number of papers that would count as equivalents for Cultural Studies papers for existing students.

6) How can I provide feedback on the proposal?

Potentially affected students can meet with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Arts, to ask any specific questions that they may have about the proposed changes and/or to discuss written submission during the consultation period.

If you would like to have a one on one meeting with the PVC please contact the Personal Assistant to the PVC on extension 3224 or email carol.hiller@canterbury.ac.nz to book in a suitable time. These meetings are to be held by **5pm on Friday 18 May 2012.**

Students are also welcome to provide written feedback via email to arts-submissions@canterbury.ac.nz by 5pm on Friday 18 May 2012.

7) When will decisions be made?

The University Council will make a decision regarding the discontinuation of the programmes following the consultation period.

8) If I have questions about how the proposed changes may affect my study plans, who do I contact?

Please contact either:

- the College of Arts Academic Manager, Liz Bond: liz.bond@canterbury.ac.nz or 364 2987 extension 8996
- the Faculty of Humanities/Social Sciences and Creative Arts Dean, Dr Kate van Heugten: kate.vanheugten@canterbury.ac.nz or 364 2987 extension 3230