

LCVI: Bridging Departmental Divides
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You have in your folders information compiled from previous presentations this year.

School of Drama has five degree programs. BA, MFA in Acting, Design, Directing, PhD History, Theory and Criticism. Faculty of 17. My job is to “take care” of all 5 degree programs.

It is useful to remind each group how interconnected we are. It is to everyone’s benefit that each specialty/area is strong.

Remind the group they have more in common than they think. (Example is School of Drama values.)

The heads of areas form the School’s Executive Committee. The Executive Committee serves as the personnel, curriculum, development, committees, etc.

- Place for more candid conversation than in formal faculty meetings.
- Often have pre-meeting individual conversations (no surprises for anyone!).

Spend a lot of time talking with faculty.

Work hard to arrive at a consensus.

There are two items on the list that I do not agree with or feel must be taken with a grain of salt. They are:

- Don’t rush a vote until all stakeholders have had ample opportunity to participate.
- Remember it is better to be collegial than to be right.

I disagree. Faculty can discuss issues to death and never reach a consensus and nothing gets done.

People expect their leaders to lead.

Prepare discussion outlines – give people something to respond to. Provide opportunities for input from all, create a timetable, and then make decisions and move ahead. Explain why something is significant but move ahead.

If you are stumped or stymied – get help. Diverse opinions, personnel challenges. What ever it is, if you don’t know what to do get help. Ignoring the problem makes it worse.

If you are wrong – Admit it, Learn from it, Move forward.

University of Washington School of Drama Values:

Excellence: The School of Drama is committed to extending the limits of those creative and analytical processes which continually renew the art.

Tradition and Innovation: The School of Drama is committed to studying long standing theories and practices, while remaining equally committed to innovation and new vision.

Intellectual and Creative Rigor: The School of Drama is committed to instilling intellectual curiosity and creative drive in our students.

Collaboration/Participation: The School of Drama is committed to creating an active learning environment, which fosters rich, meaningful work and contributes to a rich and lasting community.

Integrity and Respect: The School of Drama is committed to promoting the development of strong character expressed as public involvement, individual responsibility, and continuing commitment to personal growth beyond the University experience.