

Summary of Internal and External Review Team Reports  
Museum Studies  
Fall, 2006

The following summarizes the findings of the internal and external review teams that conducted reviews during the Fall semester of 2006.

The Museum Studies Program is highly valued by both staff and students and is appropriately and inextricably tied to the mission of the University Museum. Students receive valuable hands-on training in museum operations in a real-world laboratory. The staff performs all the duties of a professionally accredited museum, and instructs seven (7) courses and many independent studies. Indeed, the greatest strength of the Program is the close relationship between the students and the instructors. There is, however, clearly a need for resources and higher visibility within the University.

Both the internal and external review teams have identified the same major, significant need for a full-time clerical position. Significant accomplishments and service to the region are going unnoticed, documentation – including tracking alumni, is not taking place, and fundraising is greatly hampered. Presently only four people run the entire University Museum; teaching the Museum Studies Program is performed as an overload and there is no compensation. Having an overworked, uncompensated, skeletal staff with no secretarial assistance has a direct negative impact on the education of students who choose this minor.

In order of significance, positions that need to be filled are:

1. Secretary/Administrative Assistant
2. Arts Curator
3. Public Relations
4. Complementary hiring by other departments (Geology, Anthropology, History, Art and Design) whose interests dovetail with Museum Studies

Other major recommendations are:

- dedicated classrooms with specialized equipment
- proper dust collection and air conditioning to protect students and artwork
- proper identification on SIUC maps
- significant equipment needs; digital equipment, lighting, upgraded tools
- budget increases to allow for matching grants, base funding for supplies and exhibitions, funding for staff/faculty travel to professional conferences, etc.
- the University Museum and its programs should be placed directly under the Provost's office
- the University Museum should be located in a prominent and accessible location.

## Conclusion

Staff and faculty are highly dedicated to the Program and are highly respected by their students. Indeed, their willingness to accomplish great things with little resources is evident. However, it is time to properly support the Museum Studies Program; relatively minor support will have an exponential impact beneficial to the entire University.