**Task Force on Graduate Education: Selective Excellence**

**Program Ratings and Rationale**

Program: Art History M.A., Ph.D. Program  
Rating: High Quality

The Art History program enjoys a high national reputation that, despite the challenges presented by the flood, has not been tarnished. The program has a large undergraduate teaching effort and is central to CLAS and the University. The applicant pool has increased in numbers in recent years and is strong; admissions are fairly selective. The student body is not diverse (a situation the program is aware of). Funding for doctoral students is available but post-comprehensive exam support needs attention. Students do have a strong record of awards and recognitions. Median TTD of 7.7 years and completion of 48% need attention. Both are below the average for the Humanities discipline. However, the Task Force acknowledges that the TTD for some students is lengthened due to foreign language requirements and that the program has revised the graduate curriculum somewhat which seems to be reducing the length of time to degree. Also, there is a low attrition rate (8%) for students leaving the program without at least their master's degree. Placements of doctoral graduates appear strong with 67% of their graduates placed in academics. The narrative report articulates a good sense of self-awareness and proposes plans to address weaknesses.

Program: Art M.A., M.F.A. Program  
Rating: High Quality

The Art program is well respected nationally and draws a steady applicant pool, despite the challenges presented by the flood. Admissions are selective. The student body is diverse. TTD of 3 years for the MFA is in line with peer programs and other MFA degree programs. Placement of graduates, especially MFAs is good. Past funding appears to have been sufficient, primarily through TAships, although there is concern that with the recent budget crisis that source of funding will erode. Additional funding has come from Iowa Arts Fellowships, some RA support, and through donations. The program should explore other options for sustainable graduate student support.