III. Membership and alliances:

Along with the four member departments (Art, Communication Studies, Music, and Theatre), the school will retain alliances with the following: CCIT, ARTSwego, IPAC, and General Education. In addition, it will continue to play an active role in the following degree programs: Cinema and Screen Studies, Arts Management, Creative Arts Therapy, Human Computer Interaction, MAT in Art, Peace Studies, Women’s Studies, Technology Education and Information Science. It will continue to be engaged in the development of interdisciplinary programs and initiatives across the campus and in the community, such as the Art Association, 20-20 Visioning, Arts and Culture, Ontario Center for the Performing Arts, Oswego Opera, COPE, WRVO, WTOP, WNYO, the Oswegonian, Oswego Online and so forth.

Cross campus alliances are vital to the curriculum and program offerings of all four departments in SCCA. For example, the Art department’s Graphic Design program has courses that are approved cognates in several majors including Information Science, Human Computer Interaction, and Technology Education. These programs and departments also allow graphic design majors to study in their courses. This cross traffic by students has produced a rich, interdisciplinary classroom environment that has broadened the scope of student projects tremendously. This same scenario is true of the exchanges between Foreign Language and Music, Theatre and Creative Writing/English, and Broadcasting and Meteorology. All of the departments have a very interdependent relationship with Cinema Studies as well as the School of Business. So while the creation of a School of Communication and Creative Arts offers many benefits, they would not be beneficial without the continued connection and collegial exchange with programs and departments in the College of Arts and Science, the School of Business, and the School of Education.

IV. Outcomes anticipated for units involved in this school:

The birth of the School of Communication and Creative Arts creates a distinct area of excellence for the campus as it enters the 21st century. With American society clearly in the throes of a communication and technological revolution, SCCA is an organically grown innovation that will ensure Oswego is the leader our alumni, faculty, and students need us to be. There has been a long tradition of collaboration and interdisciplinary work by the four departments involved in this new school. Some recent manifestations are projects such as “Arts Across the Curriculum,” the “Lost in a Viral Paradise”, music-theatre productions, “At the Intersection: A Conversation Between Art and Science on Information Visualization,” the Media Summit. Previous collaborations such as Reader’s Theater, WRVO’s live radio dramas, suggest that there is much to offer students in this new school.

Many of the students majoring in our disciplines have strong ties to, if not second majors and minors in, one of the other disciplines in this new school. We have had great success with these partnerships, and student reaction has been extremely positive. The concept for this new school has arisen from the foundation that already exists. The desire to form a new school comes from realizing benefits inherent in cross-disciplinary work. Strong co-curricular and extracurricular bonds already exist between many communication studies majors and students involved in performing arts. Campus media and performing venues will flourish and become stronger as the new school promotes academic interactions between the majors. The new school will not only make future projects easier to do, but also will become a hallmark for the entire campus.