



School of Film and Television.

September 7, 2025

Re: Film studies move

Dean Moore,

We write with gratitude for your willingness to include us in this process of discernment regarding the proposal to remove the Department of Film and Television Studies (FTVS) from the School of Film & Television. We value the opportunity to contribute our perspective on a matter central to the future of SFTV and its students.

Our primary concern is that this proposal would separate Film Studies from Production, breaking a proven model that defines the nation's leading film schools. Without exception, top-ranked programs—USC, UCLA, NYU, Chapman—embed Film Studies within their schools, ensuring students receive both creative training and the intellectual depth of film history, theory, and criticism. This integration elevates programs to national and global prominence.

Removing FTVS from SFTV would risk:

- Undermining SFTV's national ranking, making it the only top program without an integrated Film Studies department.
- Weakening Production by limiting student access to the scholarship that fosters a culture of interdisciplinarity, matches the aims of our LMU Mission, deepens students' appreciation of the intellectual aspects of their craft, and attracts applicants seeking a comprehensive education.
- Causing significant enrollment declines in both Film Studies and Production MFA programs, as prospective students look to competitor schools that maintain this model.
- Reducing financial stability by separating one of SFTV's most cost-effective and fastest-growing departments, which has consistently generated revenue without the high expenses of production equipment and infrastructure.
- Diluting curricular collaboration, as Film Studies faculty would be unable to prioritize Production students' needs if moved outside the school.

SFTV has rightly earned its #5 national ranking because it embraces an integrated, comprehensive approach. Film Studies not only strengthens Production but also contributes significantly to the school's academic and financial health, preparing students to be both skilled filmmakers and thoughtful storytellers.

For these reasons, we respectfully but emphatically voice our strong objection to the proposed separation. Instead, we see this as an opportunity to reaffirm what makes SFTV exceptional: a commitment to the integrated model that defines the world's leading film schools.

Respectfully,

Production Dept. Tenured faculty

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