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## Arts college teachers up in arms

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THE reputation of the Victorian College of the Arts and Music is under threat and substantial course changes are being made without proper consultation, staff say.

About 60 staff held a crisis meeting yesterday, calling on college management to uphold its integrity as a specialist arts institution.

"This meeting is especially concerned that public statements by the VCAM dean, Sharman Pretty, show that she and the university have little or no recognition of the need for focused arts training, or any esteem for the arts themselves," the staff said in a statement.

The college, formerly the Victorian College of the Arts, merged with Melbourne University's music faculty in 2007. Critics say the 2011 introduction of the university's broad-based Melbourne model means college students will not get enough specialist experience to be employable.

The college's six schools will be merged into three, 12 casual support staff have been lost and staff fear more job cuts.

Asked last night if there would be further staff cuts, Ms Pretty said the college was involved in a restructuring program that would be finalised later in the year.

**MIKI PERKINS**

*This story was found at: <http://www.theage.com.au/national/arts-college-teachers-up-in-arms-20090715-dnf.html>*

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