

**College of Arts and Sciences
Assembly
Tuesday, January 23, 2007, 3:30 pm
Oakland Room, Oakland Center**

MINUTES

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Acting Dean Ron Sudol.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes from the November 21, 2006 meeting were approved.
3. **Proposals for the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre and the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance. *First Reading:***

Jackie Wiggins (Music, Theatre and Dance) presented the proposals for the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance, and the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre programs (first reading). The proposals represent two separate degrees and two separate programs (as well as two separate agenda items), but since the two BFA programs are two sides of the same coin, they were discussed simultaneously.

Ms. Wiggins gave a brief history of the reasons leading up to the creation of these proposals. Since the 1990's, there have been 120-130 majors earning BA degrees in Theatre and Dance. However, the BA degree has not served the needs of the all of the students as well as it could, particularly those whose career plans include becoming professionals in the field of theatre or dance. By creating the new BFA degrees, the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance has reorganized the existing programs in order to create two new degrees that will better serve the needs of students planning to become professionals. There has been no need to create new courses for these new programs.

Discussion centered around two main concerns. Richard Stamps (Anthropology) asked whether there were any space issues involved, whether there was a commitment to grow, and whether the department has or will have all the faculty and staff necessary to facilitate that growth. Andrea Eis (Art and Art History), referring to the Art department's experience with the new Studio Art major, asked whether the new BFA degree program proposals could ask for more new program funding than they have done.

Ms. Wiggins indicated that they do have new dance faculty, and in the future there will be new theatre faculty as well. However, until then, these programs do not require more space or funding because they are not proposing new courses.

Acting Dean Ron Sudol asked if the second reading should be waived. Mary Eberly (Psychology) so moved, and the motion passed. The motions to approve the BFA in dance and the BFA in theatre were passed unanimously.

4. Information Item: Combined Music Education/Performance Major Degree Programs

Jackie Wiggins (MTD) updated the Assembly on the Combined Music Education/Performance Majors. Many students who complete the requirements for the majors in Instrumental/General Music Education and Choral/General Music Education, Bachelor of Music degree program, also complete the requirements for performance majors in vocal, piano and instrumental. There is too much overlap between the Music Education major and the Performance major requirements for a double major to be awarded without petitions and such like. It is very beneficial for our students to have recognition that they have completed both sets of requirements, which include capstone experiences for each major and a degree credit total of nearly 190 credits! Other schools faced with this challenge have created combined majors such as these. The Committee on Instruction has approved this combining of already fully approved degree programs into this additional option for students.

5. College Update:

Acting Dean Ron Sudol announced that Jerry Grossman (Mathematics) had received the Meritorious Achievement Award from the Mathematical Association of America.

MacArthur Grant Award recipient and OU alumnus Regina Carter was on campus recently, and spent time in the music department. The College would like to work out something with her in the future.

OU student Jason Cale is presently an intern on the NYC set of *Law and Order: Criminal Intent*, and has created a blog to update the OU community about his experiences in the Big Apple.

6. Good and Welfare:

An update on the OU success at the American College Theatre Festival in Washington, D.C., was provided. OU students performed *Knick Knack*, and their performance was very well received. In the past MTD students have gotten a scholarship to Second City and to Michigan Tech; another won the prestigious Irene Ryan Award.

Andrea Eis (Art and Art History, and Chair of OU General Education Committee) requested feedback from the College about how the new Gen Ed program is going so far. She asked the College to think about the following questions: Are there any issues with implementing the program? Are there aspects that need to be improved? Are the resources originally discussed being allocated? Has there been success with the program so far? What about the one-year language requirement/linguistics issue? She indicated that anecdotally, she has heard a variety of concerns from faculty. But

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she proposed that the Executive Committee of the CAS should consider creating a subcommittee to discuss these and other questions, in order to provide significant and useful feedback directly to the Gen Ed Committee so that they would not have to rely on anecdotal information.

There was lengthy discussion. Peter Binkert (Linguistics) observed that we are already coming to the end of the five-year period during which the new language requirement would be implemented, and asked if the Linguistics department does not offer LIN 181 and ALS 176 in 2 years, what will happen? Keith Berven (Biology) pointed out that we cannot change the learning outcomes approved by the Senate. He also stated that the reason we changed to the new Gen Ed program was because the old Gen Ed program had been found impossible to assess. Michelle Piskulich (Associate Dean) said that space and resources for faculty lines are new issues since the Gen Ed Task Force did its work. Acting Dean Ron Sudol pointed out that there are now new faculty members in the DMLL which would facilitate the language requirement. Barbara Mabee (Modern Languages) said that the language requirement will involve hiring more new part-time faculty members in the DMLL.

Ms. Eis clarified that she is talking about looking at the entire program, not individual courses. Are there enough Knowledge Application, Capstone, and Intensive Writing courses? She is concerned about waiting for two years when the program will be assessed, to talk about these things, because the problems could become embedded in the system, and she believes the issues need to be addressed before the upcoming assessment. Ms. Eis clarified the difference between course assessment and program assessment. She pointed out that many of the issues involved affect the CAS directly, which is why she is asking for ground level discussions within the College to help focus the issues and any solutions that might be posed. Peter Binkert requested that the CAS Executive Committee address this, and/or form a subcommittee to look into these concerns. Acting Dean Ron Sudol said that the Executive Committee will take up these issues and bring the subject back to the CAS Assembly.

7. Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven (DMLL)