

To: WSU Music Faculty

From: Dean Madonna Miner

Re: Dean's Response to Music's Self-Study, Reviewers' Report, and Music Faculty's Response to the Review

Date: April 30, 2015

Thank you all for your many contributions to WSU's Music Program Review process. All Music area faculty members participated in the various stages of this review, and I am grateful to you for your thoughtfulness and thoroughness in addressing concerns of importance to the area and to the College. I want to convey special thanks to Dr. Carey Campbell for serving as internal team leader, and to the four individuals (Vincent Bates, Judy Elsley, Joelle Lien, and Nicholas Morrison) who served as reviewers.

Having read documents associated with the Music area, as well as those from Theatre and Dance (units with whom Music shares space, administration and staff, some budgets and some students), I want to highlight four items that I believe merit further attention from Music faculty:

1. As noted by the Review Committee, and acknowledged by Music faculty in their response to the Review, the Music Mission Statement deserves discussion and revision.
2. Discussion of the Mission Statement should occur in tandem with discussion about the music curriculum. Along with colleagues in many other discipline areas, music educators today are engaged in conversations/debates about what should be taught, what balance between classical coverage and contemporary experimentation is appropriate, how faculty might diversify the curriculum, what skills are essential, etc. Such conversations are difficult and time-consuming, but must occur for curricula to be responsive to changes in the field and in our culture.
3. Deliberation about desirable partnerships, alliances and opportunities. Although music faculty members generally work well with each other, it strikes me that they sometimes miss opportunities to develop communities of association that could be beneficial to both faculty and students. How might Music faculty and students forge mutually-beneficial alliances outside the department?
4. In addition to considering external partnerships, it is time for Music, Dance, and Theatre to have a realistic discussion about their existence as a single department. All three areas were reviewed this year; all three reviews mentioned concerns associated with the union of these areas under one chair. What might be advantages/disadvantages of different organizational/governance structures? Are there ways all three areas might benefit if we were to configure them differently? What costs would accompany such a reconfiguration? Which resources can continue to be shared and which should be allocated to individual units?

In the Theatre area response to their review, faculty members suggest the formation of a Task Force to analyze the administrative and governing structure of the Department of Performing Arts and propose alternatives. I am supportive of this approach, and suggest such a Task Force might be called into existence before the end of summer, 2015. The Dean's Office is willing to provide funding for an internal (to the university) or external facilitator for such a Task Force up to \$1500.

Madonne Miner, Dean  
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