



Theatre and Dance Program Review 2016-17

Closing MOU

October 2, 2017

Overview

Degree/Certificate Programs Reviewed: Theatre, B.A.

Department Chair & Dean: Eric Herzik, Acting Chair; Debra Moddelmog, Dean

External Reviewers & Affiliation: Dr. Jenifer Craig, Chair, Dance Department, University of Oregon
Karen Brewster, Program Director, Division of Theatre and Dance, East Tennessee State University


Date of External Visit: March 30-31, 2017


Review Process Summary

The Theatre and Dance Department was scheduled for regular program review as mandated by the Board of Regents and University policy. A self-study document for the program and department was developed by the Department faculty and completed in Spring 2017. The report was provided to two reviewers before they conducted an on-campus visit on March 30-31, 2017. The external reviewers reviewed the department and program and met with relevant faculty, staff, students and administrators to determine the department's accomplishments, examine strengths and weaknesses, and identify opportunities as its plans for the future. A final report was issued by the site visitors shortly after the review visit. In accordance with institution practice, responses to the review were solicited from the department and the dean. A final meeting of all parties took place on August 31, 2017. This document represents the final MOU of recommendations and findings from the review.

Signatures

Executive Vice President &
Provost:
Vice Provost, Undergraduate
Education:


Date: 10/2/17


Date: 10/3/17

Major Findings and Conclusions

1. General: Committed, highly qualified, and experienced faculty at all levels
2. Mutual respect of the faculty
3. Resiliency in the face of existential challenges since the last review
4. Positive student experience; students feel recognized by and respect for the faculty

5. Recent faculty and equipment improvements by the university indicate an investment in the department and in safety
6. A strong, active, and vibrant Theatre and Dance department is vital to our School of the Arts, college, university and Northern Nevada.

Next Steps for this Program/Department

1. A more visible presence of the department would aid in attracting majors in Theatre and Dance. The department should be included in the website presence of the School of the Arts, and should consider the possibility of advertising productions in public spaces such as the airport. If the CLA supports publicity staffing, then it should include a proposal in future RFP solicitations.
2. K-12 engagement is an investment in recruiting future majors and directly addresses the Core Theme 3 of the UNR mission. Central administration encourages engagement with the Damonte Ranch HS signature academy, Eve Allen's arts integration project, and the current effort to make visits part of the high school field trip menu.
3. Central administration acknowledges that concerns involving faculty instructional workloads are being reviewed by the department and college. Current 3+3 teaching load expectations may not be appropriate for Theatre and Dance. The department should align with best practices in similar departments at peer and aspirant institutions, and make a recommendation to the dean. Role statements should be clarified for each faculty member and should be equitable. This planning should inform the development of bylaws and a department strategic plan and the development of a Musical Theatre BA.
4. Central administration acknowledges concerns from external reviewers that a proposed Musical Theatre major has no clear implementation timeline or specified curriculum. It is acknowledged that the department and college have developed a planning process. It is expected that the department will report on this project within the next three years and before mid-way program review.
5. Central administration does not support the development of a Theatre Studies BA at this time, due to constraints on space and student numbers.
6. Central administration does not support the development of a MA in Theatre Studies.
7. Central administration acknowledges that a search for a full-time Costume Shop Manager is underway.
8. Central administration acknowledges the need for an additional continuing lecturer with responsibilities for advising and core instruction.
9. The department should monitor and support progression of associate professors in required progress toward promotion. If UNR mentors are unavailable, then the department should consider the resources of the NCFDD <https://www.unr.edu/provost/academic-resources/ncfdd> for mentoring options for small departments with many junior faculty. Recruiting nationally recognized reviewers for local productions may attract attention to faculty effort. Central administration acknowledges that the

CLA dean is implementing a new faculty professional development program to assist with mentoring of junior faculty.

10. The major and minor advising structure should be reviewed. Create a highly structured advising system with expectations for regular contact advising hours with each student each semester. The advising workload should be evaluated at the same time. The department should consider formalized mentor relationships with each student, possibly through the new THTR 494 Professional Foundations course.
11. Create a student handbook to provide rules and guidelines, including safety information. Handbooks from other departments throughout the US could be used as guides for getting started.
12. Consult with the Assistant Vice Provost for Accreditation and Assessment and the CO7 committee to clarify expectations for on program assessment and general education assessment.
13. The department should work with Facilities to review HVAC issues (temperature and air quality) in the Costume Shop ASAP, as they may be safety concerns. Recommendations should be forwarded to the CLA dean. Central Administration acknowledges that there is insufficient costume storage on campus.
14. Central administration acknowledges that students need access to additional rehearsal space. The department and CLA dean need to arrive at decisions and come to clarity on what is needed in terms of size and sound isolation.
15. Although accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) and National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD) is a long-range goal, the department should continue to pattern itself on the standards.

Vital Statistics on NSHE Reports

Theatre, B.A.

Number of students with declared major in the program area:	70
Number of graduates from the program, 2014-15:	12
Number of graduates from the program, 2015-16:	12
Number of graduates from the program, 2016-17:	11
Headcount of students enrolled in any course related to the program (duplicated):	796