



UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
GREEN BAY

Date: April 24, 2015

To: Stephen E. Fritz
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

From: Scott Furlong
Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Re: Report on the Theatre and Dance Program Review

I have examined the Self-Study Report prepared by the faculty in Theatre and Dance, as well as the Program Review conducted by the Academic Affairs Council. Based on my examination of these materials I recommend continuation of the Theatre and Dance program. Specific comments that I made to the faculty include the following:

1. The Theatre and Dance program and its faculty have garnered a number of accolades since its last review at the program, faculty, and student level. For example, two shows "Balkan Women" and "Almost Maine" received the Golden Hand Truck Award at the American College Theatre Festival. The program plays an important role in community outreach and engagement and has a strong core of supporters within the community. The program and its faculty provide a very direct and "hands-on" approach to learning.
2. The Theatre and Dance program has seen a reduction in its number of majors and minors over the past five years from 72 to 52. The past few years have held somewhat steady between 50-55 majors. The faculty should spend some time exploring the issues for the decline and what may be done to address it if appropriate.
3. The self-study and the AAC notes a concern regarding insufficient staffing. Due to the nature of the program, a significant amount of faculty time is reassigned toward design and directorial work necessary for the productions. In addition, a number of the practicum courses are one-credit from a student perspective, but take up many hours of faculty time. I have had some discussions regarding these issues with the chair and the program has initiated some changes in these areas. There continues to be a need for a more permanent solution to the costume shop supervisor. During 2014/15, we were able to piece together a part time solution. Ultimately, many of the resource concerns are tied very directly to the number and type of productions produced by the Theatre program. Reducing the number of these would provide more limited performance and tech opportunities for the students within the program. In addition, there are continuing issues in regards to production budgets.

4. The AAC notes some concerns with the assessment program as presented by the self-study and I would agree with this. The program has well stated learning outcomes, but needs to do a better job in formulating an assessment plan for its students.
5. The largest change to the program since the last review is that the Theatre and Dance major is now an interdisciplinary program. The AAC wondered about the number of credits in the major and if it was too many (54) compared to UW-Oshkosh, which is only 36 credits. Actually, I don't believe 54 credits is too many for a professional arts program. I do wonder why students are graduating with quite a few credits beyond the 120 needed for graduation. Some of this may be due to the fact that Theatre used to be a disciplinary program and students needed to minor in an interdisciplinary program as well. The program should pay some attention to this issue and see why students are graduating with a relatively high number of credits.
6. The program may want to consider an audition requirement to enroll in the major particularly if enrollments become an issue. The AAC notes that there is no performance requirement in the Theatre major, which would appear to be an issue particularly for those within the Performance and potentially the Musical Theatre emphases. The program may want to consider this.
7. The dean and the program chair have been working on some curriculum changes that may better capture faculty workload and also student credit generation.

Cc: Steven Kimball and Franklin Chen, Academic Affairs Council Co-Chairs
Greg Davis, Associate Provost
Kaoime Malloy, Chair Theatre and Dance