May 15, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: James Harris
Dean, College of Arts & Humanities

FROM: Phyllis Peres
Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to modify the curriculum of the B.A. in Theatre (PCC log no. 08072)

At its meeting on today, the Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula and Courses approved your proposal to modify the curriculum of the B.A. in Theatre. A copy of the approved proposal is attached.

The changes are effective Fall 2009. The College should ensure that the changes are fully described in the Undergraduate Catalog and all relevant descriptive materials, and that all advisors are informed.

CWR/

Enclosure

cc: Carmen Balthrop, Chair, Senate PCC Committee
Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid
Reka Montfort, University Senate
Barbara Hope, Data Administration
Denise Nadasen, Institutional Research & Planning
Anne Turkos, Archives
Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar
Scott Wolpert, Undergraduate Studies
Elizabeth Bergmann Loizeaux, College of Arts & Humanities
Heather Nathans, Department of Theatre
THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

DIRECTIONS:
- Provide one form with original approval signatures in lines 1 - 4 for each proposed action. Keep this form to one page in length.
- Early consultation with the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning & Programs is strongly recommended if there are questions or concerns, particularly with new programs.
- Please submit the signed form to Claudia Rector, Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.
- Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.

DATE SUBMITTED: **February 11, 2009**

COLLEGE/SCHOOL: **ARHU**

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM: **THET**

PROPOSED ACTION (A separate form for each) ADD_____ DELETE_____ CHANGE____ X

DESCRIPTION (Provide a succinct account of the proposed action. Details should be provided in an attachment. Provide old and new sample programs for curriculum changes.)

Background: The Learning Outcomes Assessment process (which the Theatre Department undertook in 2006), was instrumental in encouraging us to make further refinements to our major. The proposed adjustments described on the attached sheet make it more efficient for both the students and the Department.

Proposed Changes: The current Foundation series will be condensed from a total of 6 to 4 courses. (Please see the detailed description of the proposed changes attached to this document). Note that the overall number of credits for the major will *not* change.

JUSTIFICATION/REASONS/RESOURCES (Briefly explain the reason for the proposed action. Identify the source of new resources that may be required. Details should be provided in an attachment.)

The changes described above will streamline progress towards the degree within the major, will allow students and faculty increased opportunities for meaningful contact/mentorship, and will increase our opportunities to offer specialized courses at the upper level of the major (we have a high level of demand for these courses, but because of the structure of the current 6-course Foundation series, often lack available resources to teach them, or student cannot fit them into their schedule). There are no new resources required for these proposed changes.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date

1. Department Committee Chair
   
2. Department Chair
   
3. College/School PCC Chair
   
4. Dean
   
5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)
6. Chair, Senate PCC

7. Chair of Senate

8. Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost
Rationale for revisions to Undergraduate Theatre Major

Background: Several years ago, the Department of Theatre undertook a substantial revision of its undergraduate major that instituted a series of six “Foundation” courses to help students build a stronger, more uniform knowledge base, and to better prepare them for the upper-level courses in the program. While this venture was extremely successful on many levels, it did create several challenges for our students that we hope to address with the revisions proposed below. We should note that the LOA process (which the Theatre Department undertook in 2006 as one of the earliest programs in ARHU to do so), was instrumental in encouraging us to make further refinements to our major. The proposed adjustments described below make it more efficient for both the students and the Department.

Proposed Changes: The Foundation series will be condensed from a total of 6 to 4 courses. The changes will allow us to do the following:

1. Introduce students to upper-level, faculty-taught courses by their second or third semester in the major. (An important part of this change will be changing the pre-requisites for some of the upper-level courses. This also addresses the concern that some required upper-level courses cannot be offered every semester.)

2. Address the Department’s mission to train scholar-artists, and the University’s goal of improving student-faculty contact hours and moving students through academic programs within a four-year time frame.

3. Streamline the Foundation series to allow students to reach their first 30-credit benchmarks by the end of their first year in the major.

4. Combine several of the original Foundation courses into new classes: THET 113 and THET 115 will become THET 223, Text and Context; and THET 112, 288, and 220 will become THET 222, Foundations of Acting and Performance.

5. Potentially create additional seats each semester by allowing us to expand the number of sections taught in the new streamlined Foundation series. At the same time, we will be able to reduce the number of seats per section in some classes (such as Fundamentals of Design) where large numbers have created challenges for effective teaching.

6. Allow students greater flexibility in selecting elective courses at the upper levels of the major, and allow the Department greater flexibility in offering specialized courses (in areas such as Latino theatre, puppetry, dramaturgy, global performance, specialized movement and vocal techniques, advanced design, etc.).

7. Integrate elements of THET 288 (our current capstone course) earlier into students’ experience in the major (the class is currently taken at the end of 4 or 5 semesters of work, which we have found to be too late for many of our majors). The new structure embeds exercises/projects from THET 288 into the other Foundation courses.

The proposed revisions to our undergraduate major will maximize our current resources (particularly given current budget cuts and the likely loss of TA and/or adjunct instructor resources for the foreseeable future). The changes described above will streamline progress towards the degree within the major, will allow students and faculty increased opportunities for meaningful contact/mentorship, and will increase our opportunities to offer specialized courses at the upper level of the major (we have a high level of demand for these courses, but because of the structure of the current 6-course Foundation series, often lack available resources to teach them, or student cannot fit them into their schedule). There are no new resources required for these proposed changes.
PART I – OVERVIEW:

FOUNDATION SERIES
THET 114 Fundamentals of Theatre Craft 3 CR
THET 116 Fundamentals of Design 3 CR
THET 222 Foundations of Acting and Performance 3 CR
THET 223 Text and Context 3 CR
THET 479 Theatre Practicum – 4/1 credit, required in different positions 4 CR
TOTAL 16 CR

AREA MENUS
Performance 3 CR
Design [3 CR must be Upper Level] 6 CR
History/Theory [6 CR must be 400-Level] 9 CR
TOTAL 18 CR

SUPPORTING COURSES
21 credits required from approved list of courses in THET and other Units 21 CR
12 CR must be THET; 15 CR must be Upper Level

55 TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED; 28 UPPER LEVEL CREDITS REQUIRED

PART II – FOUR YEAR PLAN

FIRST YEAR
THET 114 Fundamentals of Theatre Craft 3 CR
THET 116 Fundamentals of Design 3 CR
THET 223 Text and Context – Recommended 3 CR
THET 222 Foundations of Acting and Performance– Recommended 3 CR
THET 479 Theatre Practicum 1 CR
Optional: THET 210, 273, 284, 373
TOTAL = 13 CR

****30 CR Benchmark: THET 114, 116 and either THET 222, 223, THET 479

SECOND YEAR
THET 222 or 223 if not completed in the first year
2xx or 3xx Theatre History 3 CR
2xx or 3xx Performance Course 3 CR
2xx or 3xx Design Course 3 CR
3xx Supporting Course 3 CR
THET 479 Theatre Practicum 1 CR
TOTAL = 13 CR

****60 CR Benchmark: THET 114, 116, 222, 223, a total of 2 THET 479’s, 12 Credits Area & Supporting Courses

THIRD YEAR
4xx History Theory Course 3 CR
3xx Design Course 3 CR
2xx or 3xx Supporting Course 3 CR
2xx or 3xx Supporting Course 3 CR
3xx or 4xx Supporting Course 3 CR
THET 479 Theatre Practicum 1 CR
TOTAL = 16 CR

****90 CR Benchmark: 3 479’s , THET 114, 116, 222, 223, 27 credits of Area and Supporting Courses

FOURTH YEAR
4xx History Theory Course 3 CR
3xx or 4xx Supporting Course 3 CR
3xx or 4xx Supporting Course 3 CR
3xx or 4xx Supporting Course 3 CR
THET 479 Theatre Practicum 1 CR
TOTAL = 13 CR
PART I – OVERVIEW:

FOUNDATION SERIES
THET 112 Fundamentals of Performance 3 CR
THET 113 Fundamentals of Theatre History 3 CR
THET 114 Fundamentals of Theatre Craft 3 CR
THET 115 Fundamentals of Play Analysis 3 CR
THET 116 Fundamentals of Design 3 CR
THET 288 Fundamentals Project 1 CR
THET 479 Theatre Practicum – 3/1 credit, required in different positions 3 CR

TOTAL 19 CR

AREA MENUS
Performance 6 CR
Design 6 CR
History/Theory [6 CR must be 400-Level] 9 CR

TOTAL 21 CR

SUPPORTING COURSES
15 credits required from approved list of courses in THET and other Units 15 CR

55 TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED; 27 UPPER LEVEL CREDITS REQUIRED

PART II – FOUR YEAR PLAN

FIRST YEAR
Two courses in the fall and two in the spring from the following:
THET 112 Fundamentals of Performance, THET 113 Fundamentals of Theatre History,
THET 114, Fundamentals of Theatre Craft, THET 115 Fundamentals of Play Analysis
THET 116 Fundamentals of Design

TOTAL = 12 CR

****30 CR Benchmark: 4 of 5 Fundamentals Courses

SECOND YEAR
5th Fundamentals course (THET 112, 113, 114, 115, 116) 3 CR
THET 220 (Performance Area) 3 CR
THET 2xx/3xx History Area 3 CR
THET 2xx/3xx Design Area 3 CR
THET 288 Fundamentals Project 1 CR
THET 479 Theatre Practicum (1) 1 CR

TOTAL = 14 CR

****60 CR Benchmark: All 5 Fundamentals (THET 112, 113, 114, 115, 116), 1 THET 479, THET 288, 1 Area Menu course

THIRD YEAR
THET 2xx Performance Area 3 CR
3xx Design Course 3 CR
4xx History Course 3 CR
3xx or 4xx Supporting Course 3 CR
3xx or 4xx Supporting Course 3 CR
THET 479 Theatre Practicum (2) 2 CR

TOTAL = 17 CR

****90 CR Benchmark: 2 additional 479’s, 21 additional credits (12 upper level) from Area Menu Courses and Supporting Courses

FOURTH YEAR
4xx History Theory Course 3 CR
3xx or 4xx Supporting Course 3 CR
3xx or 4xx Supporting Course 3 CR
3xx or 4xx Supporting Course 3 CR

TOTAL = 12 CR