

## MUSIC - PROGRAM REVIEW

### PROGRAM REVIEW SELF-STUDY HIGHLIGHTS:

The Music Department is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) with a successful reaccreditation completed in 2012.

Headcount statistics 2015-16:

- Undergraduate students – 236 (up from 218 in 2014-15)
- Graduate students – 20 (down from 22 in 2014-15)
- Full-time Faculty – 17
- Adjunct Faculty – 21

Music degrees are approved Selective Access Programs with restricted-entry by audition.

- The Music Department tracks all Music majors and provides program specific advising to each student each semester.
- Degree Programs:
  - BA – Music
  - BME – Bachelor in Music Education
  - BM – Commercial Music
  - BM – Music Performance
  - MM – Music Performance
  - MM – Commercial Music

First year retention rate was higher than the university average 3 out of 5 years during review period. 2014 = 84.4%. Second year retention rate 2014 = 81.3%.

Graduation rate is a concern, however it is improving: 6 yr rate improved from 30.56% to 45.71%.

BOG has identified degrees in Music Education as Programs of Strategic Emphasis.

- The Music Department prioritized the hire of a tenure-line Music Education faculty member.
- Transitioned the BME degree into the DFSCAL from the COE.
- Developed a tracking system to ascertain each BME student's completion of requirements
- Tracks completer employment in public and private school settings. Reporting the employment status for the BME degree's in the Annual Program Performance Report (APPR) to the Florida Dept. of Education.

Hoot/Wisdom Recordings LLC, FAU's professional record label is one of the nation's most active university record label companies with an extensive catalog of releases including a Latin Grammy nominated album.

**OURI:** All Commercial Music majors are required to complete a senior research project.

**Community Engagement:** The Department of Music presents a comprehensive on-campus performance schedule of 45-50 concerts per academic year. The Department's concert season ticket sales generates about \$29,000 for scholarships each year.

Scholarship support has significantly increased with the Georgina Dieter Dennis Foundation Vocal Scholarships (annual giving \$50,000, with two years at \$75,000); Wells Fargo Matching Gift Program (\$25,000 annually); Marie Iandoli Music Education Scholarships (\$3000 annually).

Department of Music has received \$483,262.61 in Tech Fee funding. This includes funded to expand the Commercial Music lab from 15 to 27 computers, enhancing student access to technology to produce their required coursework.

## **PROGRAM REVIEW TEAM REPORT (SUMMARY)**

### **Program assets:**

- Department of Music is a talented, involved and cohesive faculty.
- The Bachelor of Music (BME) degree was moved from the College of Education to the College of Arts and Letters following the 2012 NASM accreditation visit.
- Positive impact of recent facilities improvements, including sound isolation in the practice rooms, recording studio upgrades, and the installation of a state-of-the-art computer music lab.
- The Commercial Music program has the potential to be nationally recognized. It benefits from a well-equipped professional recording studio and a state-of-the-art computer lab.
- Recent graduates of the commercial music program are successfully finding career opportunities in the practice.
- The "Music for Healing," program was made possible by a grant from Dr. Andrew and Dr. Bradford Ress of the Ress Institute.

### **Review Team key observations and recommendations for the Music Department:**

- The definition of research across the unit, college, and university is not made clear.
- Department of Music should craft a mission statement that explicitly includes creative activity as one of its important values.
- Department's website appears to be uninviting, short on information, and not up to date, and as such, is in need of immediate attention.
- Students are required to be proficient in functional keyboard. Some students wait until the end of their study to complete this requirement. If they do not pass, it results in a delay in graduation. The Department could consider incorporating progress toward keyboard proficiency into the junior barrier exam process.
- Students and faculty alike noted that a disproportionate number of students were failing a required Music History course sequence.

### **Observations and recommendations for College and University:**

- The College and central administration, in particular, the Provost's Office, should review its very use of the term "research" and pivot toward a more widely adopted designation of "research and creative activities", so that faculty accomplishments from all disciplines will be acknowledged equally.
- Even if unintended, the Pillars and Research initiatives give the strong impression of being science focused. Greater communication, collaboration and cooperation between the department and the university research initiatives, Directors of Pillars and OURI is recommended.
- Resolve the communication problem between the Department of Music and the Graduate College. Admissions procedures, contacts, timing, and information flow are not commonly understood. These admissions challenges have been detrimental to graduate recruiting.
- SPOT - Student evaluations of faculty teaching are not collected for classes below five students. The policy is sound in that it insures student anonymity; however, private teachers suffer from not receiving SPOT scores or feedback because of the many small class enrollments and individualized applied study.

### **Facilities Concerns:**

- Primary areas of concern are the University Theatre rigging and hydraulic stage lift.
- The Music Department does not have a performance space suitable for student recitals. These recitals are required by the curriculum and are taken for credit.

- The acoustics of the instrumental rehearsal room have unsafe sound levels (too loud), which can result in significant hearing loss.

**Staffing & Faculty concerns:**

- The department needs additional tenure-line faculty, the most important need appears to be a musicologist.
- The theatre manager is overworked. Create a full-time assistant theater manager position.
- Chair's teaching and administrative responsibility are too onerous for one individual. Relief, in the form of part-time adjunct help or staff.

**Top critical issues for Music Department:**

- Facility safety concerns in the University Theatre
- Lost opportunities, due to lack of critically needed staff support in the area of marketing and public relations, to connect more powerfully to the surrounding community. Along the same lines, lost opportunities for prospective students due to a lack of an updated and up-to-date website.
- Other facility challenges outlined above (recital space, hearing safety, acoustic isolation, etc.).

## **MUSIC - PROGRAM REVIEW RESPONSE AND ACTION PLAN (SUMMARY)**

The Department of Music was in agreement with the comments and findings of the Program Review Team, and have begun taking steps towards remediating the deficiencies that are within the departments ability.

### **Actions items:**

- The Department has rewritten the program's mission statement to include the following statement: *To inspire achievement in music through student engagement in scholarship, diverse modes of creative activity, and community arts outreach.*
- A faculty website committee is evaluating the current departmental site and will propose a new site map to improve navigation, increase access to important student information and provide a cleaner and more inviting appearance.
- The Department is in the process of implementing changes to the piano proficiency requirement.
- Bachelor of Music Education completers are being contacted by the Department to verify employment in order to maximize the Annual Program Performance Report with the Florida Department of Education.
- A new tenure-track line in Music History has been requested.

### **Recommendations requiring College and University support:**

- Fund a full-time assistant theater manager position
- Establish a concert office that does marketing for all three units
- Increase its stipends and offer health benefits to graduate assistants.
- Renovate and improve the acoustics in the rehearsal facility in AL building #9 to create a safer classroom. Consult an acoustician to determine a solution.
- Improve the sound isolation between music rooms in AL building #9.
- The University needs to bundle all the applied students taught by each faculty member to produce aggregated Student Perception of Teaching (SPOT) information for applied music faculty.
- Build a recital facility.
- Refinish stage floor

### **Major repair and safety concerns requiring University support:**

- Inspect and repair/replace the University Theatre fly loft and rigging system
- Repair/replace the University Theatre hydraulic stage lift system.
- Lighting and sound booth are not handicap accessible
- Replace or recover seating in University Theatre