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MEMORANDUM

Date: 1/31/2023
To: UUPC Members
From: Thomas Shorrock, Chair Department of Theatre and Dance
RE: 120 Credit hour waiver for Musical Theatre Program

After consultation with Dr. Russ Ivy, we are submitting an Exception to the 120 credit hours requirement for Baccalaureate programs request on degree program hours for the Musical Theatre BFA program. By modifying the emphasis credit hours, we will be able to offer experiences where students will be able to achieve higher paying jobs and employment opportunities upon graduation, as they will be eligible to join Actors' Equity, the national professional union of actors and Stage Managers in the United States. This is an exciting opportunity as no other State University Program offers an experience like this for undergraduate students.

The department is revising the Musical Theatre degree as a tightly integrated cohort class model for students seeking training at Florida Atlantic University. We will offer courses with a unique and innovative learning experience during the summer terms where students will work with professional performers and stage managers producing theatre. While students are completing college credits towards degree, they will concurrently earn points towards joining the union through special arrangements with URTA, the University Resident Theatre Association.

We have carefully crafted the program to maximize two summer semesters to keep students in a graduation timeline of four years at the university, supporting the university metrics and timely graduation requirements.

Thank you for your consideration.