November 26, 2014

TO: Provost Sarah Mangelsdorf and Interim Dean Wendy Crone

FROM: Julie Underwood, Dean School of Education

SUBJECT: Transition of the MFA in Theatre and Drama

On June 23, 2014 the University Academic Planning Council approved the relocation of the Department of Theatre and Drama from the College of Letters and Science to the School of Education.

Please find attached the planning document and several appendices for the transition of the MFA in Theatre and Drama. The document addresses the curriculum, the graduate faculty, space and other resources, the relationship to the new MA/PhD programs in Integrated Theatre Studies, and the timeline for transition. This proposal was approved on November 19, 2014 by the School of Education Academic Planning Council.

Our hope and expectation is that this proposal will be reviewed formally by GFEC at its December 12, 2014 meeting. Please contact my office with any questions or concerns about the attached materials. Thank you.

c: Jocelyn Milner, Associate Provost and Director, APIR
   Kelly Haslam, Assistant Dean, Graduate School
   Patricia Boyette, Chair, Theatre and Drama
   David Rosenthal, Associate Dean, Education
   Jeffrey Hamm, Associate Dean, Education
MFA in Theatre and Drama
CURRICULAR PLANNING DOCUMENT

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

As of July 1, 2014, the Department of Theatre and Drama moved its governance home, in accordance with FP&P and with UAPC approval, from the College of Letters and Science to the School of Education. Administrative/budget relocation is to be completed by July 1, 2015. Current and continuing students in the MFA in Theatre and Drama program are expected to move from the College of Letters and Science to the School of Education codes effective Fall 2015. In keeping with the Dean's Agreement of April 2014 (Appendix A), this curricular planning document addresses questions and issues regarding the Department of Theatre and Drama's MFA program relocation to the School of Education.

This document will provide:

1. an overview of the current MFA in Theatre and Drama;
2. a summary of any changes to the MFA in Theatre and Drama program brought about by the move of the Department of Theatre and Drama from L&S to Education;
3. the impact of the MA/PhD in Theatre and Drama moving to the Department of English, and being renamed Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies
4. an update of what has been done to date to address items listed in the Deans' Agreement concerning the relocation of the Department of Theatre and Drama and its MFA program to the School of Education;
5. a proposal for a program review in 2015-2016.

MFA IN THEATRE AND DRAMA

Overview

The MFA in Theatre and Drama is a three-year terminal degree program that marries the scholarly study of theatre with the practical making of theatre. Students may specialize in the areas of acting, directing, lighting design, costume design, scenic design and/or technical design. As of Fall 2014, the MFA in Theatre and Drama has 19 enrolled students. The number of students enrolled in the program at any given time over the past five years has ranged from 19 to 27. Students are funded through Teaching Assistantships, Project Assistantships or Advanced Opportunity Fellowships. This program has a long and distinguished history of producing artists and teachers who are leaders in their field. The department's graduate and undergraduate programs are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST). See Appendix B. The most recent NAST review of the department occurred in 2009-2010. The department
passed the review and remains in good standing. See Appendix C for more information regarding NAST and the department's 2009-2010 review.

Faculty and Governance

The Graduate Program Faculty in the Theatre and Drama department consists of tenured or tenure-track faculty at UW-Madison who are qualified to offer outstanding graduate level study and training in Theatre and one or more of its sub-disciplines. Newly hired faculty within the department are automatically granted Graduate Program Faculty status. In addition to serving as thesis advisors and/or committee members, Graduate Program Faculty are expected to assist in recruiting, to serve on appropriate graduate program committees and to regularly teach graduate level courses. Non-Theatre and Drama faculty may become Affiliate Faculty after being approved by the Theatre and Drama Graduate Program Faculty and agreeing to serve as per FP&P 5.13. Affiliate faculty provide additional support for the Graduate Program by occasionally teaching courses, serving on graduate committees and providing other programmatic support for the Graduate Program as appropriate. Affiliate faculty will be reviewed for reappointment every three years.

The Graduate Program Faculty is responsible for the administration of the program. A Director of Graduate Studies will be chosen by majority vote of the membership to serve a three-year renewable term. The Director of Graduate Studies will oversee general administration of the MFA in Theatre and Drama program including the scheduling of program-wide meetings (faculty, staff and/or students) to discuss or vote on issues as warranted. Proposals for significant policy change require majority vote of the Graduate Program Faculty and the Department of Theatre and Drama.

Administrative support for the Graduate Program will remain unchanged from the current structure. The current Graduate Program Coordinator, Department Administrator, Administrative Assistant, Financial Specialist and General Manager of University Theatre will transfer with the Department to the School of Education.

Current Faculty Governing the Graduate Program in Theatre and Drama:

Ann Archbold, Professor and Chair
Patricia Boyette, Professor, Interim Chair and Director of Theatre Production
Gail Brassard, Associate Professor
Shuxing Fan, Assistant Professor (third year)
David Furumoto, Professor
Dan Lisowski, Assistant Professor (fourth year)
Michael Peterson, Associate Professor, Director of Graduate Studies
Norma Saldivar, Professor, Executive Director of Arts Institute
Patrick Sims, Professor, Vice Provost Office of Equity and Diversity
Mike Vanden Heuvel, Professor, Chair of Integrated Liberal Studies
Affiliate Faculty:

Previous Theatre and Drama Department Faculty Anticipated to Serve as Affiliate Faculty:
Aparna Dharwadker, Department of English
Mary Trotter, Department of English
Manon Van de Water, Slavic Studies

Previous Affiliate Faculty due for renewal who have served the in the Theatre and Drama MFA program:
Jill Casid, Art History
Laurie Beth Clark, Art
Peggy Choy, Dance
Andrea Harris, Dance
Li Chiao-Ping, Dance
Uri Vardi, Music
Chris Walker, Dance

The Graduate Program in Theatre and Drama expects to acquire new Affiliate Faculty (particularly in Art and Dance) with the transfer to the School of Education and anticipates the development of strong interdisciplinary ties. The Department of Art currently has an MFA program and the Department of Dance is in the process of developing an MFA program. With the addition of the MFA program in Theatre and Drama, like professional graduate arts units are brought together making collaborations among these graduate programs more possible to the benefit of all.

Curriculum

The MFA in Theatre and Drama curriculum remains unchanged with the department's move to the School of Education. The program has a 60 credit minimum as specified by NAST (which is higher than the Graduate School minimum of 42) and a programmatic maximum of 72 credits. It is compliant with all Graduate School and Higher Learning Commission requirements. (Appendices D and E)

There are no curricular requirements within the MFA in Theatre and Drama or the proposed renaming of the MA/PhD Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies programs that will create conflict for students with the relocation of the department and MFA program to the School of Education or with the relocation of the MA/PhD programs to the English Department. Current courses have been or are in the process of being cross-listed for the benefit of all students, and we expect collegial collaborations to continue. The move of the MA/PhD program from the department of Theatre and Drama will not in any way impede the meeting of requirements for current MFA in Theatre and Drama students nor the current MA/PhD students who will be transferring to the Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies program in English.
The Department of Theatre and Drama supports the transfer of MA/PhD in Theatre Research to the Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies program, and will assist in facilitating this transition.

Currently we see no curricular obstacles to the transitions of the department and MFA program to the School of Education or the MA/PhD program to Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies. As Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies develops its program in future, however, caution should be taken to ensure that redundancy of course offerings and academic programs is avoided, especially in the areas of performance courses and acting and directing training. It will be important to maintain the integrity of and the distinction between the MFA in Theatre and Drama program (which includes specialization in Acting and Directing) and the MA/PhD Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies program. We look forward to continued collaboration, and not competition, between both units.

**Budget and Resources**

Budgets and resources related to the transitions of Theatre and Drama MFA to School of Education and the MA/PhD program be renamed Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies and relocated to English department are discussed in the Deans’ Agreement (Appendix A) and are in the process of transference to be completed July 1, 2015. Budgetary and resource support for the MFA in Theatre and Drama program will remain stable at current levels which includes the transfer all current teaching and project assistantships.

**Location and Space**

The Theatre and Drama offices, classrooms, studios, theatres and curricular production related spaces are spread between first, second, fourth and sixth floors in Vilas Hall. An on-site inventory of Theatre and Drama space was conducted on August 14, 2014, by Chris Bruhn with Jesse Winters, Patricia Boyette and Melinda Menard attending. A complete inventory is also listed in the appendix of the May 28, 2014 Relocation Document submitted to the Provost.

As indicated in the Deans’ Agreement document, item 4, “Continuity of physical infrastructure and equipment resources for performance programming, and ancillary resources historically allocated to faculty and staff to perform their duties, will also be protected by the ‘follow the professor/staff’ principle. Likewise, continuity of access to physical infrastructure and ancillaries vital to curriculum and mission for the Theatre Research faculty who remain in L&S (and part of the to be renamed Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies MA/PhD program) – notably access to performance studio or black box stage space, for teaching and for practice of creative activity as research –will also be protected. The deans will support the development of a protocol of collegial collaboration with joint stewardship by Theatre and Drama and by the Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies groups, to ensure appropriate access to faculty and staff across L&S and SOE.”
In keeping with the agreement, collegial discussions are presently underway between Theatre and Drama and Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies faculty to develop mutually satisfactory solutions regarding space usage.

**Proposed Program Review**

Although there was an extensive NAST accreditation review of the department in 2009-10, a GFEC member was not included on the review team. We acknowledge that, as a result, there has not been a Graduate School sanctioned review of the MFA program in the past ten years. To ensure that we are up to date and on solid footing with issues important to the Graduate Faculty Executive Committee (GFEC), and to afford ourselves the opportunity to look more deeply at our MFA in Theatre and Drama program in relation to the transitions that are occurring, the department proposes to conduct a program review in 2015-2016. We will develop a self-study by a three-member committee determined by the Dean of the School of Education that will include a member of GFEC. Criteria for the self-study will be based on NAST and campus guidelines and review frameworks which are also endorsed by the Graduate Faculty Executive Committee.

Appendices are posted with UAPC agenda materials at http://www.apir.wisc.edu/UAPC201415December.htm.

Appendix A. Relocation from L&S to SoED, Deans agreement, April 2014
Appendix B. Accreditation Information from National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST)
Appendix C. 2009-10 Accreditation Report from NAST on UW-Madison Programs
Appendix D. MFA-T&D curricular requirements
Appendix E. MFA-T&D Graduate Catalog information

Appendices are assembled in UAPC Doc 2014.12.18.04