

Colorado State University

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE

University Center for the Arts
1400 Remington Street
1778 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1778
(970) 491-5529
uca.colostate.edu

SMTD Student Advisory Committee

April 30, 2021

Zoom

1:00 PM

Notes

- **Welcome and Introductions**

- Dr. Dan Goble – Director, SMTD
- Sandra Sanchez – Admin Assistant, SMTD
- Lili Federico
- Sierra La Rue
- Lauren Bosch
- Riley Busch
- Michaela Allen

- **Update for Fall 2021**

- CSU is mandating COVID vaccinations for every faculty, staff, and student for FA21:
 - This will largely depend on whether one of the three vaccines will be officially approved by the FDA.
 - There are exemptions for health and religious reasons – more information on this can be found on the university's COVID-19 webpage.
 - The School of Music, Theatre, and Dance has been among the most affected, as we are performing arts; but not only us – this has affected performing arts institutions world-wide.
 - As of this date, social distancing in classrooms (lectures and labs) has been eliminated, but that could change; there is a meeting for those in the performing arts scheduled for May 12th which may speak more on this.
 - We are optimistic that things will be different (more normal) in the fall; whether we will still need to wear masks remains to be seen.
 - We expect more information on the pandemic protocols by May 31st.
- The purpose of forming this student advisory committee is to create a place where students can voice their needs, wants, and concerns to Dr. Goble; *and* to get a broader picture of issues, initiatives, and other great things happening at the UCA so the entire school, through every discipline, can come together as a single unit, i.e., music students attending dance concerts, theatre students learning about music therapy, etc.:

- The plan is to continue with this group in the FA21 semester; if anyone is not returning in the fall, we will hold an election to fill that spot; if you are graduating this spring or summer, make sure your voice is heard through this council.
- Thank you to all who participated in the CSU aerosol study:
 - We have an amazing team of researchers right here at CSU.
 - One interesting component of the study was comparing singing with speaking – it is interesting what they discovered.
 - The results of the study will be shared through a webinar scheduled for May 20th – to register, find the link on the SMTD website.
- **UCA Facilities Upgrades**
 - Instrumental Rehearsal Hall
 - A donor has pledged \$875,000 to upgrade the acoustics in IRH.
 - Completion is scheduled for summer of 2022 or 2023.
 - Small Acting Studio (238)
 - Dr. Megan Lewis and Noah Racey are combining efforts to turn UCA 238 into a tap studio.
 - The facilities board agreed we need a tap studio and is stepping up to make it happen.
 - It will also accommodate other modern dance forms like hip-hop, etc.
 - Always striving for improvement
 - Our goal is to improve things for our students.
 - We look at every opportunity to improve *something* for our students.
 - If you think or hear of something that will improve your lives, or the lives of your fellow students, please send an email to either Dr. Morgan (Dance Director), Dr. Lewis (Theatre Director), or Dr. Goble.
 - We have the finest piano technician in the country, Justin Holcomb:
 - He has a connection to obtain another Steinway for SMTD.
 - This will go a long way in our commitment to continue to grow the piano program.
 - The UCA is a student-funded building – the university student body voted to complete UCA with student funding over 10 years ago and the funding continues the path of improvements for our students.
 - Keep in mind, major improvements will most likely be for future students to enjoy, much like the improvements you are enjoying today because of *your* predecessors.
 - Are there some things we can do to help in the realm of student experience?
 - Sierra – we heard about a donor who will donate the funding to put in a water filling station in the dance hallway; That’s wonderful news!
 - What about a Proscenium theatre?
 - A Proscenium theatre has been a dream for the UCA since we opened.
 - The discussion is now at the executive level and will probably come to fruition in the next 10 years.

- **Questions**

- Do you still want to know about things that are not about structural change? Like, most of the drafting tables are broken, which makes it difficult for students to work and get their projects done.
 - Yes, this is exactly what I need to know, so thank you! The process is getting with Price Johnston, Steven Workman, and Dr. Lewis to find out how much it will cost and work it into the budget.
- Michaela – are there any things in place for getting students placed in job opportunities after graduation? Like career opportunities and internships within the school? Career counseling would be a great idea for the students – having that 1-on-1 support and guidance.
 - I can say there are very specific internship opportunities in the school.
 - If you are theatre, speak with Price and Steven; they have great connections in the industry.
 - We place people all over the country, most notably the Santa Fe Opera.
 - For Dance, Emily Morgan has great connections.
 - These are the kinds of things that are best accomplished with baby steps, a little at a time.

- **Other**

- CSU is an accredited member of NASM; one of 160 institutions who holds this honor; we are up for our 10-year accreditation review in October; expect to see evaluators walking around the UCA for a few days.
 - We do not hold this accreditation for Theatre or Dance yet; the Theatre side of it will be this November, and the Dance visit will likely be Fall 2022.
 - We could become one of only 20 universities in the U.S. having all three – Music, Theatre, and Dance accreditations.
 - Accreditation holds us at certain standards – the music faculty has been working on this all year; we do a self-study.
- I am blown away by what you have all accomplished this year in terms of virtual performances, streaming, etc.
 - The HOPE project opens tonight, a lot of work for a lot of people.
 - For the FA21 we are looking at having live performances throughout the semester.
- Anything else? Any ideas?
 - One idea is getting a food truck over at the UCA on a regular basis.
 - Another idea is to get a coffee corner or store within the UCA.
 - Or, getting a coffee vending machine (great idea!); maybe a Human Bean truck, but parked in the back, instead of the front, as that is where most people go into the building, i.e., by the Dance entrance.
 - Having a coffee corner in the UCA is another idea; not only will it provide a service/goods, it will also provide jobs for students in the UCA; but, we always have to maintain the proper ingress/egress in the lobby area, and we have to comply with the fire code.

- Another idea - We could do a poll to see what students want to see in the UCA as far as a café area.
- The Dance advisory has a suggestion box, maybe we could put one in a central spot in the UCA; Or, we could post these “suggestion boxes” on the Music, Theatre, and Dance websites.
- These are all fantastic ideas, but we cannot run our own café; plus, what space do we sacrifice for the Bean? If they have a café across from Clark, why can't we have it?
- If you have a chance to check out some performances on demand outside of your area, I highly encourage you to do so; one of my goals is to have all of us be more cohesive and do things that will bring us closer together.
- This is your time; this is your stage, coming out of this pandemic at this time will be like a renaissance; I relish seeing all our students in their element performing.
- If you think of something else, please reach out to Dr. Goble, Dr. Morgan, or Dr. Lewis.

Thank you all for your time.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Sanchez 😊