

Colorado State University

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE

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SMTD Student Advisory Committee

September 28, 2021

UCA Room 136

4:00 PM

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Dan Goble (SMTD Director), Michaela Allen (MM-Performance), Riley Busch (BM-Music/Music Therapy), Lili Federico (BA-Theatre/Design-Tech), Lauren Boesch (BA-Theatre/Design-Tech), Sandra Sanchez (SMTD Admin Assistant)

Unable to attend: Elliott Benson, Sierra La Rue

Update on how things are going:

It's great to meet in person – thank you all for coming!

Despite long commutes for some students, the general, overall outlook seems hopeful and good. Last year was challenging for students – to transition from F2F to online; and the challenge this year seems to be reverting back to the F2F modality.

The semester feels similar to past semesters as far as first exams, assignments, etc. are concerned. Students seem to be adjusting and navigating the new norm. There is a slight sense of academic pressure, but the general feeling is good overall.

Pandemic protocols changed rapidly prior to the beginning of the FA21 semester (i.e., we were instructed of the mask requirement inside campus buildings soon after the mask requirement had been lifted). There is not much difference for us in the performing arts – based on the science, we need to mask up for any aerosol producing activities, regardless of mask mandates. Dr. Goble just received word from the CLA Dean's office – a strong commitment to F2F in the spring, reduced online courses (no word about masks yet).

CSU has a vaccination rate of 94% for faculty/staff and 88% for students.

We now have giant air scrubbers in Runyan, IRH, and Dance studios and other high impact spaces – these change the air out 6 times/hour when combined with the air exchange provided by the HVAC system.

Suggestions for improvements:

The council felt more collaboration outside of their own discipline, as well as, across disciplines is needed (i.e., dance with music, theatre with dance, etc.); rehearsals ought to have more co-curricular inclusion (e.g., a musician can learn a lot from dance movement).

The council acknowledged more piano, guitar, and voice classes with the Music Therapy new curriculum as a step in the right direction.

Music Therapy students would benefit from taking counseling and psychology classes but cannot because those types of classes are always full. Finding a way for MT students to be able to enroll in these types of courses would be beneficial.

Theatre students would benefit from a regular 16-week course in subjects such as stage manager rights, theatrical unions, actors' rights associations, etc., instead of learning about it through independent study.

Theatre students would also benefit from higher level courses in theatre management, theatre advanced stage/production management, theatrical unions, etc. Currently, it goes no higher than 200-level.

It was suggested to include foreign language classes or workshops in the degrees.

COVID-19 update for Fall 2021:

Dr. Goble explained that the policies on the SMTD website are now limited to exceptions from the general CSU policies.

Curriculum Update:

Curriculum Approvals

- BM in Music Therapy (revision)
- PhD in Music Therapy
- BFA in Dance
- BA in Dance (revision)
- MM in Music Education (revision)

Curricula in Process

- BA in Theatre (Musical Theatre) (New)
- BA in Theatre (Performance) (Revision)
- BA in Theatre (Design/Tech) (Revisions)
- BA in Theatre (World) (New)
- MM in Conducting (Revisions)

- BFA in Dance (Education) (New)

UCA Facilities Upgrades:

- Instrumental Rehearsal Hall – work starts in summer, dividing in two spaces; completion near December 2022
- Small Acting Studio (238) – has a tap floor
- Steinway D, replacing B in Bryan’s office; Steinway B will move to the ORH and eliminate the Baldwin in that space.

Other Facilities Improvements:

- Valerie Reed, our amazing Assistant Events Manager, is researching how the UCA can have a small café within the building. She is inquiring with the Lory Student Center to see if they might plant a satellite café here. The request would probably need the cooperation and approval from many departments. If this request is denied, we will look into hiring food trucks to sit along Remington to serve our students, faculty and staff. The council commented on the importance of students needing nutritious meals to do, and be, their very best.

Questions:

What kind of things are in place as far as wind playing? Can players sit closer to each other? Campus-wide, the recommendation is 3 feet apart, but because we are producing emissions (even from woodwind keys), 6 feet apart is preferred for trumpet and trombone. For our safety and those around us, the scientific team has limited our time in a space **and** limited our playing per space.

Do we have a SMTD community newsletter? If so, can it be sent to students? Yes, we do have a monthly newsletter that Marketing & Communications sends to patrons, however, they are currently working on a process to send the newsletter to all SMTD students as well.

Other:

- A couple of council members had taken the Artist’s Guide to Wellness Class – they lauded its benefits for student health, student wellness and student success.
- As a reminder, vaccines are mandated unless you have an exemption; we haven’t seen any pushback from students on vaccines or masks.
- One good thing to come out of the pandemic is that we’re streaming performances.