

Colorado State University

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE

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Music Student Advisory Committee

September 23, 2021

UCA 142

2:00 PM

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Dan Goble (SMTD Director), John Friskney (Senior, ME, Choral), Leah Dunphey (Sophomore, ME, Horn), Riley Busch (Junior, MT, Saxophone), Brenna Hudson (Sophomore, ME, Trombone), Jenna Moore (Senior, Perf, Flute), Kathryn Kennedy (Junior, ME, Flute), Heather Bellotti (Office Manager)

Unable to attend: Riley Gallivan (MM MT), Brandon Graese (Senior, ME, Trombone), Daniel Morris (MM MT)

Update on how things are going:

The council commented that the semester is good, albeit busier than expected, and that is generally hard to adjust from the prior year. Some students have fallen behind, and many feel that they are right at their threshold for workload.

Suggestions for things to improve:

Some students are retaking theory and/or appear to be struggling to keep up this fall. There is a broad difference in skill levels in each class. Tutoring opportunities might need to continue to be promoted, and a catch-up course for additional Theory/Aural Skills levels would be helpful around midterms, in order to help students, stay on track. John Friskney is helping with tutoring, and that is going well.

It was suggested that courses with limited grading opportunities (i.e., only large projects or exams) can be stressful right now, as smaller more frequent assignments might help students recover their grade.

String Techniques has been having issues with CCURE access for sectional 204, but the instructor was working on fixing that.

Many pianos are out of tune, but this is being worked on by Justin Holcomb with some extra help. One challenge is the amount of outside air in the HVAC mix, which brings the humidity down, and presents issues with pitch stability.

Concerns were expressed about UDQEs and juries for students who didn't get full in-person lessons last year due to distancing and mask requirements. Students haven't done as many in-person experiences recently; some had their audition remotely and their recent juries via Zoom. Student might also appreciate more time playing with a collaborative pianist.

One suggestion is to have practice juries this fall with an accompanist on several Saturdays with a panel of peers for feedback.

Suggestion to have a meeting or social event for students related to mental/emotional fatigue and self-care solutions. This is similar to Andrew Knights class, which has been very successful. Having this prior to midterms would be helpful.

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.

HVAC is improving due to improvements by facilities and the addition of industrial air scrubbers in high impact areas. The [MIT COVID safety model](#) has been used for determining occupancy times and numbers in high impact spaces. Lessons for voice and wind students are improved versus last year.

Curriculum Update:

Curriculum Approvals

- BM in Music Therapy (revision – will allow more unique instruments and attract more diverse students)
- PhD in Music Therapy (admitted two students this fall)
- BFA in Dance (new)
- 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: goal is to split this into two rooms, completed near December 2022
- Small Acting Studio (238): has a tap floor
- Steinway D: for Bryan Wallicks studio, which will move a Steinway B to ORH, and eliminate the Baldwin in that space

Other Facilities Suggestions:

More practice rooms

Recording spaces

Runyan needs more sound isolation from the Scene Shop and Blackbox Theatre. Conversely, singing in Runyan also disrupts the theatre activities at times.