

Music Student Advisory Council Meeting

Monday, October 24, 2022, from 4-5 p.m., UCA 142

Attendees: Michelle Stanley, Heather Bellotti, Merritt Jones, Ben Pouncey, Arjen Wynja, Leah Dunphey, Riley Busch, Rachael Kovaly, and John Friskney (Jasmine Retland, Brenna Hudson absent).

Follow up items noted in yellow

Introduction by Council Members

- Will aim to have **an owl camera** for the next meeting

Discussion of how the semester is going:

- COVID cases are increasing on campus
- Students are concerned with the two-ensemble rule
 - History of rules – smaller program needed more ensemble participants
 - Concerns were reflected in NASM Visitor Report
 - Director/Chair are trying to eliminate this rule to reduce stress
 - Concern that ME majors aren't able to explore 2nd instrument
 - Concern that some instrumental studios are small; need solutions
 - Exceptions are possible with Chair approval
 - **Intend to have this changed in Fall 2023**
- Registration has opened, but the system that allows Instructor assignments is broken, so not all instructors appear at this time
- Students are concerned with the length of some evening dress rehearsals
 - Some instrumental areas have issues with late class time dismissals or long evening rehearsals
 - The Choirs currently do not have rehearsals outside of class times, with the exception of some retreats at the start of each semester
 - **The Chair will bring this concern to the ensemble directors and explore solutions**
 - There's also an issue where ensembles meet different lengths of time, and the Chair is working on solutions for this
- There is a current search for a new Director of Orchestras this year, due to Wes Kenney's retirement
 - There may be changes to the program with the change in personnel
 - **Concerns were raised about how students have to register and pay extra for Symphonia under the current course structure**
- Update on lack of Food Venues near the UCA
 - There was a tour with the Provost, and it was agreed that it's a problem to have no way to use a RamCard near the UCA. The Provost said they would fund a café in our building. We would like to put this in the Griffin Lobby under the staircase. The café would be similar to

something like Sweet Sensations and would offer items like sandwiches, yogurt, etc. for purchase.

- We would also like to add a student fridge/freezer near the lockers in the basement under Griffin
- Concern that Around the Horn Shuttle doesn't have a route to the UCA
 - Unfortunately, there are no solutions for this at this time, but we are still hoping in the long term we can find some options
- Online degree suggestion to explore ways to build community and collaboration
 - Online degree programs can be isolating for students who do not live in MST
 - There haven't been meet-up options outside of afternoon/MST
 - Courses are asynchronous and office hours are daytime/MST
 - More flexibility in options would help students who work
 - The Chair will bring up this idea in her next MT meeting
- Concern that HY of Jazz and HY of R&R meet at the same time as Wind Symphony
 - The Chair will bring this concern to the scheduling committee
- Concern regarding Theory/Aural Skills tutoring and the number of hours/students who need help this fall
 - Assigned to 5 hours per week, but regularly exceeding those hours
 - New Tutor will begin next spring; can we increase hours or hire more individuals? The Chair will explore funding sources for more help
 - Concern about Graduate level Remedial Theory course; students felt like it was taught very fast and not sequential; grad students are seeking tutoring too
 - Vocalists generally need more support in beginning theory/aural skills than instrumentalists
- Idea for First Year Seminar to address health, wellness, etc.
 - Students did not agree this was needed; they said adjusting back from covid has been a struggle, but they can figure things out
 - Students suggested burnout might be starting earlier with freshman due to AP expectations in high school; freshman year has an incredible amount of life adjustments
 - Students don't want expectations to be lowered due to any struggles; they like high standards, but a little grace is helpful too
 - Suggestion for studio classes; at the start of the semester have students turn in a schedule which shows when students will eat, etc.
 - Students should prompt an open dialogue with faculty about how things are going
 - The Chair will provide this feedback at the next faculty meeting