

March 5, 2013

**Bruno Nachtergaele, Chair**  
**Davis Division of the Academic Senate**

Subject: Change in name for the major in Dramatic Art

Dear Professor Nachtergaele,

The faculty of the Department of Theater and Dance has proposed changing the name of the existing major and minor in Dramatic Art to "Theater and Dance." In accordance with the provisions of PPM 200-25, the proposal has been reviewed by Dean Jessie Ann Owens—Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, who has expressed her support for the proposal.

The College of Letters and Science Executive Committee has reviewed the request and recommends approval of the name change to Theater and Dance. On behalf of the committee, I am hereby forwarding the proposal to you for review and action by the Davis Division.

Sincerely,



Phillip R. Shaver, Chair  
Executive Committee  
College of Letters and Science

cc: B. Floyd, Director  
Undergraduate Education and Advising  
College of Letters & Science

From: Jon D. Rossini  
To: The Educational Policy Committee, Letters and Sciences  
Via: Professor James McClain  
Date: 11/27/13

Dear Committee:

The Department of Theatre and Dance proposes to make significant changes to its existing B.A. in Dramatic Art in order to better serve the student population in relationship to the resources and expertise of the existing faculty. This proposal differs significantly from the one submitted last year and is based on specific responses to the letter from the committee regarding the previous proposal and a thorough re-examination of our understanding of our major and expectations for students in the major. This letter will highlight all changes from the existing major with specific attention to those new to this proposal. Included with this proposal are the existing and proposed catalog copy and a list of newly proposed courses (with descriptions) as well as existing courses and existing courses new to the major that have been revised or are undergoing revision.

First and foremost, we would like to propose that the name of our major be changed to Theatre and Dance. On a practical level, this change would eliminate the continued confusion that arises from the Department of Theatre and Dance offering a degree in Dramatic Art. However, more than a simple bureaucratic change, we have constructed a revised major that fully incorporates both strands into one major. In the proposed major all students will share a core of 5 lower division classes (4 in History, 1 in Production/Management) and a Senior Capstone Experience. Beyond that, students will make choices in consultation with their faculty adviser to determine whether they will concentrate more heavily in Theatre, in Dance, or to balance the two. The further addition of an explicit honors BA that requires additional electives allows more talented and serious students to develop a deeper focus in one specific area within Theatre or Dance (such as acting, choreography, design, etc) through additional coursework and the completion of an honors project. To support this philosophy and facilitate the movement of all students in the program we are eliminating the two emphases in Theatre and Dance. The overall unit number is 66, which is significantly lower than the current major, but is a result of a synthesis and refocus of the preparatory material.

To give you a sense of how three different students might move through the choices in the major, one might imagine a student interested in dance choosing 40A and 40B on the lower division, and 142, 155A 146A, 140A and 145 in their upper division choices, and electives such as 140B, 140C, 146B, or 146C. A student interested in theatre might choose 21A, 156B, 159, 120, 127A, and 180A in their upper division choices, and electives such as 121A and 122A. A student doing the honors option and specifically interested in Design might take for their 180 units 180B and for their 4 electives 124B, 124C, 124D and 124E .

1. As a specific response to the committee's concern about the lack of ancient history and a lack of clarity in general, we are proposing a complete revisioning of the preparatory material. This involves the creation of 5 new lower division courses, all of which have been entered into ICMS. Four of the courses (DRA 55, 56A, 56B, 56C) provide a survey of the History of Theatre and Dance that combines period and thematic interests with a

broader global focus. The contemporary course (55) also engages questions of domestic diversity. These courses will function in lieu of Introduction to Theatre (20) and Visual Aspects of Dramatic Art (24; design will be covered within the historical survey) and will allow for a shift in the upper division requirements in theory/history, which will serve as focused investigations rather than historical surveys.

2. The 5<sup>th</sup> new preparatory course, 28 Entertainment Engineering and Management: Stagecraft to Stage Management, serves to synthesize and update 25 and 26 in the current Theatre emphasis
3. DRA 021B Fundamentals of Acting has been replaced with DRA 120 Gateway Acting allows for a clearer pathway for actors and non-actors to participate in acting classes. Previously students were required to take one of several advanced acting classes or movement classes, while the shift in this course allows for advanced acting courses to truly serve those interested and experienced in the art of acting.
4. A second concern came from the proposal to lower the number of lab units and the proposed elimination of the DRA 30 Theatre Laboratory requirement. One of the key educational experiences has been and continues to be participation in the development and production of live performance in Theatre and Dance, which is accomplished through the Theatre Laboratory course. However, there has been consistent confusion between the unit requirement for completion and the actual expectation for distribution of roles within this requirement. In addition, there has been confusion over the use of upper and lower division numbers for this course as students are essentially doing the same work for DRA 30 and DRA 180 Theatre Laboratory. With a number of internal and external transfers we have often waived this requirement due to time and resource constraints, including the reduction of our production season. And, with diminished faculty and production resources we no longer provide sufficient opportunities to demand or require this level of participation. Instead, we feel it is important to insure that the progress through lab courses is more carefully structured and monitored, and that each course is more clearly focused.
5. As an alternative, we have proposed a series of 7 courses that will allow for clearer instructional pathways and better record keeping for students, staff, and faculty. While historically 30 and 180 have been generic clearinghouses for all involvement in production ranging from set building to run crew to design to directing to performance, we are proposing classes that clarifies which role is held by which student (within broad categories). We are also requiring students to explicitly experience two or three elements of developing the design tools for production. This will make sure that students have the range of production experiences necessary to understand the process of creating Theatre and Dance. The courses are:
  - DRA 180a Theatre Laboratory: Performance (variable, typically 2 or 4 units)
  - DRA 180b Theatre Laboratory: Design (variable, typically 2 or 4 units)
  - DRA 180c Theatre Laboratory: Production Team (variable, typically 2 or 4 units)
  - DRA 180d Theatre Laboratory: Crew (2 units)
  - DRA 180e Theatre Laboratory: Scenic (1 unit)
  - DRA 180f Theatre Laboratory: Costume/Makeup (1 unit)
  - DRA 180g (Theatre Laboratory: Lighting/Sound/Projection (1 unit)

6. At the upper division level, we are retaining a division similar to the existing Theatre Emphasis with History/Theory as one group and then one choice from Design/Management, Acting/Movement, and Directing/Choreography/Playwriting.
7. We have changed the History/Theory requirement on the upper-division level from 156a(n), 156b(n), 156c(n) and one elective to two courses because of the addition of 16 units of historical courses in the preparatory material. In the new major these courses will provide historiographic approaches or methodological skills in particular areas or periods that build upon the 4-quarter lower division survey and will offer materials with greater specificity, focus and depth, something that was not possible when students did not have historical preparation at the lower division.
8. The addition of DRA 195 Senior Capstone Course, which will allow students to critically reflect on their experience, do a small independent project and engage with professionals in the fields of Theatre and Dance.

I would be happy to make any corrections or clarifications or answer any questions, including appearing before the committee to facilitate an understanding of the rationale for the proposed changes.

Respectfully,

Jon D. Rossini  
Associate Professor and Chair  
Department of Theatre and Dance  
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530-754-9211

February 28, 2014

TO: Phil Shaver, Chair, L&S Executive Committee  
FR: Warren Pickett, for the Committee on Educational Policy  
RE: Proposed changes to the Dramatic Art Major  
CC: Jon Rossini, Chair, Department of Theatre and Dance

The Committee on Educational Policy recommends approval of the changes to the Dramatic Art Major.