5-3-2004

Changes to the Department of Theatre Curriculum

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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SUNY BROCKPORT
Faculty Senate
State University of New York
College at Brockport
350 New Campus Drive
Brockport, NY 14420-2025
(585) 395-2586 (Fax) 395-2246

TO: Dr. Paul Yu, College President

FROM: The Faculty Senate Meeting on: May 3, 2004

RE: I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)
   II. Recommendation (Urging the Fitness of)
       III. Other, For Your Information (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)

SUBJ: Changes to the Department of Theatre Curriculum

Signed: [Signature]
   Date: 5/1/04
   (Dr. Kenneth O'Brien, 2002-2004 Faculty Senate President)

TO: The Faculty Senate

FROM: Dr. Paul Yu, College President

RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution (circle)
   a. Accepted, Effective Date: 7/6/04
   b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on __/__/__
   c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

   II, III. Response to Recommendation or Other/FYI
   a. Received and acknowledged
   b. Comment:

DISTRIBUTED TO: President's Staff
   Deans Council
   '0: Originator, Academic Advisement, Registrar

Distribution Date: 7/6/04

Signed: [Signature]
   Date: 7/6/04
   (Dr. John B. Clark, Interim President

   (Dr. Paul Yu, President, SUNY College at Brockport)
1. PROPOSAL TITLE:
Please be somewhat descriptive, for example, *Graduate Probation/Dismissal Proposal* rather than *Graduate Proposal*.

Request for approval of changes to the Department of Theatre Curriculum

2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:
Restructuring of the core, removal of track system

3. SUBMISSION & REVISION DATES:
Please date all updated documents and resubmit to the Senate Office electronically prior to Senate review and vote at fsenate@brockport.edu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Submission</th>
<th>Updated on</th>
<th>Updated on</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 1, 2004</td>
<td>April 22, 2004</td>
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4. SUBMITTED BY: (contact person)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P. Gibson Ralph</td>
<td>Department of Theatre</td>
<td>395-5265</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pralph@brockport.edu">pralph@brockport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. COMMITTEES TO COPY: (Senate office use only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>__ Budget</td>
<td>Committee Chair</td>
<td>3/8/04</td>
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<td>__ College Environment</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>4/26/04</td>
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<td>__ Enrollment Policies</td>
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<td>__ General Education</td>
<td>College President</td>
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<td>__ Graduate Curriculum</td>
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<td>x. Undergraduate Curriculum</td>
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*(ROUTING NUMBER WILL BE A CHRONOLOGICAL NUMBER SEQUENCE FOLLOWED BY COMMITTEE INITIALS)*
TO: Kenneth O’Brien, President, Faculty Senate  
       David Brannigan, Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
FROM: P. Gibson Ralph, Chair, Department of Theatre
DATE: 23 February 2004

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE CURRICULUM

The Department of Theatre is requesting review and approval of proposed changes to the curriculum for students pursuing a BA/BS degree with a major in theatre.

Proposed changes are the result of three years of review and study of the current course of study in relationship to other liberal arts programs in theatre. The proposed changes are based upon:

- Recommendations of a National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) consultant.
- Review of NAST accredited liberal arts programs.
- Best practices among schools represented by the Association of Theatre in Higher Education.

Proposed changes to the curriculum are as follows:

- Changing the current three tracks to three areas of emphasis
- Eliminating co-requisites
- Increasing the specific courses represented in the core.
- Adding an introductory course in the area of design
- Structuring the “and one course” selection list to include upper division courses in performance and literature to the core.

Proposed changes to the curriculum maintain the current credit hour requirement of 43.

- Current Curriculum: Core 22 + 3 = 25 plus 18 credit hours in track = 43
- Proposed Curriculum: Core 26 + 6 = 32 plus 11 credit hours by emphasis = 43
Rationale for changes:

- Alignment of the curriculum with the mission of the Department of Theatre as a program leading to a BA/BS degree in the liberal arts.
  - The tracks in the current curriculum are characteristic of a BFA/conservatory program.
  - The structure of the core has been realigned to meet the needs of a liberal arts curriculum

- Simplification the advisement process.
  - Degree Audit Reports (DARS)
    - Proposed changes will permit an accurate Degree Audit Report.
    - Current curriculum structure requires a manual audit.
  - Ease in identifying transfer students requirements for graduation.
  - Better accommodation of articulation agreements.

- Allow flexibility of choice to allow students to personalize their program.
  - Proposed changes allow for a student to students will take a required 32 credit hours in core classes, and then select from among all other theatre classes to complete the 43 units in the major.
  - Additional classes will be selected upon consultation with faculty advisors.

- Alignment with other course of study within the School of Arts and Performance.
  - Co-requisites
    - A system of co-requisites was established during the previous curriculum revision to structure General Education course.
    - General Education co-requisites, under the current General Education structure is no longer practical.
    - Many co-requisites are no longer offered.
  - Advisement by area of emphasis will replace the co-requisite system.
The Department of Theatre at SUNY College at Brockport:

Is committed to providing its students with theatre training as a vocation and avocation within the liberal arts environment in an academic department that reflects the larger goals of the College.

Is focused on the student learning acquired through productions and classes as its highest priority. The Department of Theatre recognizes that at the heart of powerful productions are well-trained and creative actors, designers and technicians. Consequently, the Department is dedicated to upholding the integrity of theatre as it fosters an artistic environment that nurtures developing theatre artists and technicians.

Is committed to sustaining a vital artistic synergy with the surrounding community and the greater society through productions and other theatrical presentations by its outstanding students and faculty.

Relationship of Departmental Mission to College Mission

The Mission of the Department of Theatre comes as a direct outgrowth from the College's mission Statement. Some major connections are:

The focus of training students in the discipline within a liberal arts context
Priming of student learning
Responsibility to department, school and college

Relationship of Departmental Mission to College's Strategic Plan

Just as the College's Mission Statement is the result of the College's Strategic Plan, so too is our Departmental Mission Statement. Our Departmental Mission Statement was devised by examining the seven planning questions, particularly:

What will our students learn?
What will we teach our students?
Side-by-Side Comparison of Old and New Program

Required Core for All Majors

The current core for all majors contains a total of 43 credit hours: 25 credit hours common to all majors and 18 credit hours specific to a track. The current, 25 credit hour core common to all majors is comprised of nine (9) by name courses totaling 22 credit hours and a listing of four (4) 3 credit courses from which the student is to choose one.

The proposed change to the core adds two courses to the common core (an addition of 4 credit hours) and expands the list of course from which to choose an additional course from one to two (an addition of 3 credit hours.)

The two additional courses in the proposed core are new – Introduction to Design and Stage Management Theory. Rational for the addition of the two courses are as follows:

- The current curriculum provides for study of the practical elements of theatre design and technology but does not address theory in a meaningful way. Addition of this course, common to liberal arts theatre programs will remedy this short fall.
- All theatre majors are required to stage manage on production as a requirement for graduation. To receive credit for this, they enroll in a one (1) credit hour Stage Management Practicum. This course is currently used to address both the theory and practical application of stage management. Typically a student enrolls in the course one semester, studies the theory of stage management and stage manages a production in the semester or semesters following. The proposed change splits the practicum course into two courses – one as for theory; one remains as practicum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Required Core for all Theatre Majors</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Proposed Required Core for all Theatre Majors</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>THE 2xx (A) Introduction to Design (NEW)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>THE 201 (A,P) Theatre Arts Production</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>THE 201 (A,P) Theatre Arts Production</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>THE 201 (A,P) Theatre Arts Production</td>
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</table>
The rational for the addition of a second list of courses from which one is to be selected is as follows:

- The current course selection list is without structure.
- A liberal arts curriculum in theatre should provide a student with the basic principles of the discipline. These fall in the areas of:
  - Performance
  - Design and technology
  - History, literature and criticism
- The proposed core or required by name courses does not provide appropriate emphasis on upper division study in the areas of performance and literature.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THE 202 (B) Stagecraft</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>THE 202 (B) Stagecraft</td>
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<tr>
<td>THE 221 (A) Acting I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>THE 221 (A) Acting I</td>
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<tr>
<td>THE 308 (B) Stage Management</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>THE 314 (A) History of Theatre I</td>
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<td>THE 315 (A) History of Theatre II</td>
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<td>THE 401 (A) Research in Theatre</td>
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<td>THE 402 (A) Senior Project in Theatre</td>
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<td></td>
<td>22</td>
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Required Core for All Majors – Course Selection List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Required Core for all Theatre Majors</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THE 239 (A) Introduction to Design (NEW)</td>
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<td>THE 201 (A,P) Theatre Arts Production</td>
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<td>THE 307 (A) Fundamentals of Stage Management (NEW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>THE 308 (B) Stage Management</td>
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<td>THE 314 (A) History of Theatre I</td>
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<td>THE 315 (A) History of Theatre II</td>
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<td>THE 401 (A) Research in Theatre</td>
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<td>THE 401 (A) Research in Theatre</td>
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<td>THE 402 (A) Senior Project in Theatre</td>
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And one of the following 3

- THE 322 (B,U) Acting II
- THE 323 (B,U) Acting III
- THE 324 (A) Physical Vocal Training
- THE 351 (A) Directing
- THE 422 (B,U) Acting IV
- THE 426 (B) Improvisational Studio
- THE 490 (A) Special Topics in Theatre
- THE 493 (A) Special Topics in Theatre

And One Upper Division Performance course 3
| Performance Plus One Upper Division Dramatic Literature Course \n| --- \n| THE 353 (A) Children's Theatre | THE 353 (A) Children's Theatre | 3 \n| THE 410 (A) Contemporary Women Playwrights | THE 490 (A) Special Topics in Theatre \n| THE 492 (A) Special Topics in Theatre-Literature | \n| THE 414 (A) American Theatre | \n| THE 420 (A,I) Theatre and Dilemmas of Society | \n
| Current Required for Theatre Majors | Credits | Proposed Required Theatre Majors | Credits | **Emphasis by advisement (3 courses plus 2 area specific practicum courses) | 11 |
| Track Specific Courses | 18 | 43 | 43 |

** Students will select courses appropriate to area of emphasis (performance; design/technology or general) by advisement and in accordance with Department of Theatre handbook guidance.