

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
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**Resolution # 36
2003-2004
FACULTY SENATE**

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: 5/12/04
(Dr. Kenneth O'Brien, 2002-2004 Faculty Senate President)

TO: The Faculty Senate

FROM: ^{John B. Clark}
~~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 O: Originator, Academic
Dean's Council advisement, Registrar

Distribution Date: _____

Signed: *[Signature]* Date: 7-6-04
(~~Dr. Paul Yu~~, President, SUNY College at Brockport)
Dr. John B. Clark, Interim President

**FACULTY SENATE OFFICE
RESOLUTION PROPOSAL COVER PAGE**

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: FEBRUARY 23 - Proposals received after March 1 may not be reviewed until next semester.

Submit all proposals to the Faculty Senate President electronically or on a disk with a hard copy.
Please provide cover page information requested.

facprez@brockport.edu, fsenate@brockport.edu

Faculty Senate Office, 426 Allen Building

NUMBER TO BE ASSIGNED BY SENATE OFFICE

ROUTING
NUMBER*

55 03-04 UC

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.

First Submission	Updated on	Updated on	Updated on
March 1, 2004	April 22, 2004		

4. SUBMITTED BY: (contact person)

Name	Department	Phone	Email
P. Gibson Ralph	Department of Theatre	395-5265	pralph@brockport.edu

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

Committee	Forwarded To	Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Budget	Committee Chair	3/8/04
<input type="checkbox"/> College Environment	Executive Committee	4/26/04
<input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment Policies	Senate Floor	
<input type="checkbox"/> General Education	College President	
<input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Curriculum		
<input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Policies		
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Policies		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate Curriculum		

*(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.

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

Mission Statement

(October 10, 2000)

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

Primacy 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 of 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.

Required Core for All Majors – Common to All

Current Required Core for all Theatre Majors	Credits	Proposed Required Core for all Theatre Majors	Credits
		THE 2xx (A) Introduction to Design (NEW)	3
THE 201 (A,P) Theatre Arts Production	3	THE 201 (A,P) Theatre Arts Production	3

Current Required Core for all Theatre Majors	Credits	Proposed Required Core for all Theatre Majors	Credits
THE 202 (B) Stagecraft	3	THE 202 (B) Stagecraft	3
THE 221 (A) Acting I	3	THE 221 (A) Acting I	3
		THE 3XX (A) Stage Management Theory (NEW)	1
THE 308 (B) Stage Management	1	THE 308 (B) Stage Management	1
THE 314 (A) History of Theatre I	3	THE 314 (A) History of Theatre I	3
THE 315 (A) History of Theatre II	3	THE 315 (A) History of Theatre II	3
THE 319 (A,W) Play Analysis	3	THE 319 (A,W) Play Analysis	3
THE 401 (A) Research in Theatre	1	THE 401 (A) Research in Theatre	1
THE 402 (A) Senior Project in Theatre	2	THE 402 (A) Senior Project in Theatre	2
	22		26

The rationale 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.

Required Core for All Majors – Course Selection List

Current Required Core for all Theatre Majors	Credits	Proposed Required Core for all Theatre Majors	Credits
		THE 239 (A) Introduction to Design (NEW)	3
THE 201 (A,P) Theatre Arts Production	3	THE 201 (A,P) Theatre Arts Production	3
THE 202 (B) Stagecraft	3	THE 202 (B) Stagecraft	3
THE 221 (A,P) Acting I	3	THE 221 (A,P) Acting I	3
		THE 307 (A) Fundamentals of Stage Management (NEW)	1
THE 308 (B) Stage Management	1	THE 308 (B) Stage Management	1
THE 314 (A) History of Theatre I	3	THE 314 (A) History of Theatre I	3
THE 315 (A) History of Theatre II	3	THE 315 (A) History of Theatre II	3
THE 319 (A,W) Play Analysis	3	THE 319 (A,W) Play Analysis	3
THE 401 (A) Research in Theatre	1	THE 401 (A) Research in Theatre	1
THE 402 (A) Senior Project in Theatre	2	THE 402 (A) Senior Project in Theatre	2
	22		26

And one of the following	3	And One Upper Division Performance course	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–	

		Performance	
		Plus One Upper Division Dramatic Literature Course	3
THE 353 (A) Children's Theatre		THE 353 (A) Children's Theatre	
		THE 410 (A) Contemporary Women Playwrights	
THE 490 (A) Special Topics in Theatre		THE 492 (A) Special Topics in Theatre– Literature	
THE 414 (A) American Theatre			
THE 420 (A,I) Theatre and Dilemmas of Society			
	3		6
Current Required for Theatre Majors	Credits	Proposed Required Theatre Majors	Credits
Track Specific Courses	18	**Emphasis by advisement (3 courses plus 2 area specific practicum courses)	11
	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.