University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue—why the issue is being considered:
Students pursuing a Music major with an emphasis in piano have a variety of educational and career goals. The current Music: Applied Piano degree is focused on the single career path of concert performance. The proposal from the Department of Music and Theatre Arts is designed to provide students with more options for focusing their studies in preparation for graduate school or for careers including but not limited to concert performance. Specifically, the Department wants to add two more foci: pedagogy and accompanist/coaching. All three proposed emphases include the same core Music courses: their value-added benefit is that they extend the Music major by adding flexibility and focus.

Points Discussed by Committee:
1. Collaborative piano is a term used in music for a pianist when working with another musician (e.g., accompanying, working with ensemble, etc.). Graduate degrees in collaborative piano exist, but more often students pursue Collaborative Piano as a focus area (e.g., a degree in “coaching”). A Collaborative Piano emphasis gives students the foundations they need to pursue a career or advanced education.
2. The Piano degree caters to concert piano performance. The two new, proposed emphases (Piano Pedagogy and Collaborative Piano) will allow piano majors to get the foundation (still have major performance capacity) but also provide them the ability to focus in pedagogy or coach/accompanist. The two emphases provide flexibility—more student choices.
3. Currently the Applied Piano emphasis has 10-12 piano majors. The Music and Theatre Arts Department hopes the changes in the emphases will result in doubling the number of majors. Increased piano majors would enable piano faculty more engagement at higher levels of skill with piano majors.
4. The two new emphases will not jeopardize enrollment in another area within your program. Rather, the changes in emphases will allow students to focus. The bulk of the degree is still the same.
5. The number of credits per emphasis varies based on the emphasis content and the way the content is delivered. Each emphasis has slightly different requirements to allow for the specialization.
6. Students will be able to list only one emphasis on their transcript. Students will complete courses in multiple emphases, but they can only declare one on the transcript.

Pros of Recommendation:
1. The new emphases are more tailored to students’ academic and career needs.
2. The emphases extend the strong piano major by adding increased foci.
3. We would be the only university in the state to offer either a Piano Pedagogy or a Collaborative Piano emphasis within the Music major.
4. The revised and new emphases will have comparatively fewer credits than the current Applied Piano emphasis.

Cons of Recommendation: No cons were identified.

Technology/Human Resource Impact: None. Using current faculty facilitated with changes in piano degrees.

Committee Recommendation:
Approve the following changes to the Comprehensive Major: Music:
1. Rename the Applied Piano emphasis (Code 060-043) to Piano Performance (Code 060-XXX).
2. Establish a new emphasis: Piano Pedagogy (Code 060-XXX).
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee,

by a vote of __9__ for to __0__ against on September 24

recommends that the following changes to the Comprehensive Major: Music within the Department of Music and Theatre Arts be approved:

1. Rename the Applied Piano emphasis (Code 060-043) to Piano Performance (Code 060-XXX).
2. Establish a new emphasis: Piano Pedagogy (Code 060-XXX).

Implementation Date: Fall 2014 Catalog

Signed: ______Jean A. Pratt_____
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office