April 20, 2011

To: Larry Krissek

Chair, Arts and Sciences Committee on Curriculum and Instruction

From: Bebe Miller

 Chair, Arts and Humanities 1 (Arts Intensive) Subcommittee

Re: Semester Conversion Proposal for Dance BFA and Dance Minor

On April 4 the Arts and Humanities 1 Subcommittee reviewed the semester conversion proposals for both the BFA and Minor programs in Dance. The subcommittee voted unanimously to approve both proposals for consideration by the full CCI, pending a few revisions.

The BFA in Dance is a tagged degree, one of the accredited degree programs within the arts units. The last significant revisions to the BFA in Dance were approved by CAA in August 2008. The number of credit hours for the full degree (127 semester credits) includes both GE and major course work – 37 credit hours of the GE, 84 credit hours on the major – plus 6 credits of free electives. The conversion plan is fairly straightforward, with the most significant change to the degree being the addition of the 6 credit hours of electives. This accommodates students who have double majors and minors in other departments, while not compromising accreditation standards.

The subcommittee felt the conversion plan to be quite sound but asked that a few items be addressed:

* The Chair’s letter should be fleshed out to reflect more of the Department’s rationale for the conversion plan, which was attended to in the revision.
* Clarify the number of Dance courses offered by the unit: 84 units (not 87)
* In the Overall Program Requirements, clarify that “University Free Electives: 6 units” is not listed as part of the Dance Course offerings and should not be a bullet point
* Throughout proposal: change 21 to 18 for electives in contract

There were a few additional typos and minor errors that were addressed and corrected by the department.

The Dance Minor conversion plan was also reviewed and unanimously approved pending a few revisions, which were not substantive. An exemption to the ASC rule for upper-level courses will need to be asked for in Associate Dean’s letter. We asked for clarification on whether there is a waiting list for the minor program or just for the courses, which might affect their path through the conversion plan; this wasn’t addressed specifically but may not be an issue.

In tracking these proposals through the approval process, Valarie Williams, Associate Dean, suggested that the Dance BFA and Dance Minor be considered alongside the undergraduate programs from the Department of Theatre and the School of Music, as these performing arts and tagged majors are similar in design. Given these revisions noted above, I recommend that the Dance BFA and Minor proposals both be considered and approved by the CCI.