May 29, 2020

**To**: the ASC Curriculum Committee Members:

**From**: Jan Edwards, Outgoing Associate Director and Chair of Undergraduate Studies

(copy to David Hedgecoth, incoming Associate Director and Chair of Undergraduate Studies)

**Proposal**: Request to Modify the applied lesson and ensemble requirements for BME Jazz Principal Majors

**Background and Rationale.**

The Bachelor of Music Education instrumental specialization requires jazz principal instrumentalists and concert instrumental majors to take several units of applied *principal* lessons with a studio professor. Under the current requirement, the BME jazz principal must complete six units of applied *principal* classical study with a classical studio professor (2201.xx through 3401.xx) and 12 units of applied *principal* jazz study (2201.xx through 46XX.xx). It should be noted that *there is no analogous requirement for the BME classical instrumentalist,* although some might argue that a similar requirement for BME classical majors should become a future consideration.

Nonetheless, recent conversations revealed agreement between the jazz studies and music education areas, with both areas noting that BME jazz principals should be better prepared to teach jazz and concert bands to K-12 learners. Additionally, the music education and jazz studies areas agreed that appropriate preparation to teach jazz and classical music to young learners could be accomplished through two simple modifications to the BME major for jazz principals.

**Proposal.**

The music education and jazz studies areas request the following modifications for BME majors who are jazz principals. First, the areas request a modification of the current expectation for jazz principals to take 12 units of applied principal jazz lessons *and* 6 units of applied principal classical lessons (i.e., three semesters of applied principal lessons). The modification will retain the jazz studies requirement of 12 units of applied *jazz* principal lessons and require only two semesters of *secondary* applied classical lessons (Music 2200.xx for 2-4 units). The modification will remain true to the jazz BME student’s primary interest, i.e., jazz studies, and the jazz principal’s secondary teaching interest, classical music. I note the appropriately stated course description for secondary applied lessons (Music 2200.xx):

“Fundamental applied music instruction in areas other than a student’s major or principal area” (Ohio State’s *Course Offerings Bulletin, 2020-2021.*)

The second request from the music education and jazz studies areas seeks to honor an implied requirement that BME jazz principals should participate in a concert band experience. The areas agree that a BME jazz principal’s enrollment in a concert band will provide the student practical and invaluable knowledge and understanding as a performer, learner, and observer of concert band instruction. The proposed modification will require BME jazz principals to enroll in a concert band for two semesters prior to student teaching. Additionally, the jazz area agreed to modify one of the jazz ensemble requirements and allow the jazz principal to substitute one jazz ensemble requirement for a concert band, thus reducing any negative impact on the BME jazz principal’s time-to-degree.

With the above BME jazz principal modifications, the program requirements will include:

* Applied classical lessons:
  + change from 6 units across three semesters (2201.xx-3401.xx) to
  + to 2-4 units across two semesters of *secondary* applied lessons (2200.xx)
* Two concert band enrollments and the remaining ensemble requirements as they apply to jazz studies
  + 1-2 units across two semesters of enrollment.

The proposed modifications would become effective upon approval by the ASC curriculum committee to allow currently enrolled BME jazz principals to take advantage of the modified requirements. Additionally, the proposal allows jazz principals who entered the BME program prior to AU 2019 to choose the current program requirements *or* follow the revised ensemble and applied lesson requirements. All students entering the BME program as jazz principals in AU 2020 and beyond will follow the modified curriculum if it is accepted.