



The University of Vermont  
FACULTY SENATE

**Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate  
Minutes**

Thursday, May 2, 2019, 4:15 – 6:15 pm

Present: Professors Almstead, Dale, Dickinson, Emery, Erickson, Everse, Garrison, Hazelrigg, Kervick, Marshall, Nichols, Paris, Rosebush, Rowe, Sisk, Tomas, Ultsch

Absent: Professor Goodwin, Ivakhiv, Kasser, Monsen, Seidl, Strickler, Wojewoda, GSS Representative Camille Marcotte, SGA Representative Abigail Robbins

Guests: Cindy Forehand, Brian Reed

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Chair Almstead called the meeting to order at 4:16 pm in 427A Waterman.

I. **Approval of the Minutes.** The April 4, 2019 minutes were approved as written.

II. **Chair's Remarks**

- Laura Almstead was re-elected as CAC Chair for the 2019-2020 session. Laura thanked everyone and is looking forward to continuing to serve. Some items she plans to address in the coming year include: working with the Registrar's office to clarify the cover sheet form; outlining an approval process for programs offered out of multiple units; considering policy around reactivating dormant programs; and a follow-up review on the Behavioral Change Health Studies Minor.
- All items presented to the Faculty Senate in April were approved, and will go forward to the Board of Trustees in May.

III. **Reports** – none at this time

IV. **APR Reports** – none at this time

V. **Other Business:**

- A. **Name Change Requests – Department of Theatre and Department of Music and Dance (CAS).** Laura Almstead reported that the Department of Theatre and the Department of Music and Dance in the College of Arts and Sciences submitted proposals to change the names of the Departments of Theatre and Music & Dance. The name change requests were made due to a shift of the Dance Program from its current affiliation with Music into a new affiliation with Theatre. The Department of Theatre will be renamed the Department of Theatre & Dance. The Department of Music & Dance will be renamed the Department of Music. The change will not affect the current curriculum; the majors, minors, courses, and

rubrics/prefixes (MU, MUL, DNCE, THE) will continue as they are. The request is attached to these minutes.

**Motion:** Meaghan Emery moved to approve the name change requests for the Department of Theatre and the Department of Music and Dance in the College of Arts and Sciences.

**Vote:** **18 Approve**, 0 Oppose, 0 Abstain

**VI. New Business:**

- Cathy Paris will be stepping away after 20 years of service to the CAC as member, chair and Senate President.
- Laura Almstead recognized several members ending their term of service to the CAC, including Bob Erickson, Jeff Marshall, Cathy Paris, Brian Reed, Ellen Rowe, Christina Wojewoda, and GSS Representative Camille Marcotte.

**VII. Adjournment.** For the final time, Ellen Rowe moved to adjourn at 4:48 p.m. The motion was seconded and carried.



The University of Vermont

26 March 2019

To: Laura Almstead, Curricular Affairs Committee Chair

From: Nicole Phelps, CAS Curriculum Committee Chair & Associate Professor of History

Re: Dance Program Move & Related Name Changes

Following universal approval by the faculty directly involved, as well as the dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, the CAS Curriculum Committee and CAS faculty have voted unanimously to approve a package of changes surrounding the Dance Program:

1. The Dance Program will shift from its current affiliation with Music into a new affiliation with Theatre.
2. The Department of Theatre will be renamed the Department of Theatre & Dance.
3. The Department of Music & Dance will be renamed the Department of Music.

The change will not affect the current curriculum; the majors, minors, courses, and rubrics/prefixes (MU, MUL, DNCE, THE) will continue as they are.

In the future, the hope is that the move will produce curricular change in the form of closer collaborations between Dance and Theatre faculty and students. Any such changes will be reviewed through the normal CAS and UVM channels when they are proposed.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at [nphelps@uvm.edu](mailto:nphelps@uvm.edu).



The University of Vermont

***Proposal to move the Dance Program  
from the Department of Music and Dance to the Department of Theatre***

March 13, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Dance was established as an academic program in the College of Arts and Sciences in 2006, with a new tenure track hire in the Department of Music. The creation of the dance program at UVM began to address a very obvious gap in the total fine arts offerings in the College of Arts and Sciences, and at UVM. A dance minor was approved in 2010, the name of the department was changed to the Department of Music and Dance in 2012, and I was named Director of Dance in 2016. In January 2018, I was selected as Chair of the Department. Recently, in February 2019, the UVM Board of Trustees approved a new Bachelor of Arts in Dance, available to students in Fall 2019.

With the overall growth and the new undergraduate degree offering, this has become an opportune time to consider the future path of the Dance Program.

As noted in the proposal for the new degree, the connections between the two art forms in the Department of Music and Dance have been important to the development of the dance curriculum. The most rich and meaningful collaborations have been between dance and music faculty, guest artists, and students, often resulting in performances that feature live and/or original music with newly created choreographic works.

Also noted in the proposal is that, since the inception of the Dance Program, there has been a strong and collaborative working relationship with the Department of Theatre, especially in the yearly production of *Dancing Uphill*. This yearly dance concert was founded by myself and Professor John B. Forbes, resident lighting designer in Theatre. The production has always relied on lighting equipment and other equipment/resources from Theatre; more recently Theatre staff have intensified support of box office, marketing, and ticket sales. Dance productions have continually offered performance and production opportunities for Theatre student artists, including student designers and technical crew.

Theatre and dance have shared interests in combining theory and practice in the curriculum. Studio training in dance and theatre have many commonalities, most notably, the need for open studios that allow for appropriately safe conditions in the training of actors and/or dancers. Theatre and Dance have collaborated on the use of ancillary facilities (e.g. Mann Hall) for needed class and rehearsal space. In addition, curricular connections between Dance and Theatre have resulted in frequently cross list courses (e.g. Musical Theatre Dance, Intro to Asian Theatre and Dance, Butoh). The Musical Theatre Dance course is taught by Professor Gregory Ramos from Theatre. And, given my own background and research interests, I have long held a secondary appointment in the Department of Theatre.

It has become increasingly clear that a more pronounced partnership between Theatre and Dance makes a great deal of sense. Therefore, the Dance Program:

**DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC AND DANCE**

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## The University of Vermont

1. Proposes moving the Dance Program from the Department of Music and Dance to the Department of Theatre
2. Supports the proposal from Theatre to change the name of the “Department of Theatre” to the “Department of Theatre and Dance”
3. Supports any proposal from Music faculty to remove “Dance” from the “Department of Music and Dance” name

At this point in time, the alignment between Dance and Theatre, based on curricular, facilities, rehearsal, and production needs, make the merge very appropriate and mutually beneficial. Moving forward, Theatre and Dance hope to slowly but surely collaborate more deeply and integrate curricular and production processes. It is important to note, this move will have **no impact on the majors, minors, or curriculums in Dance, Music, or Theatre.** The Dean’s office will oversee budget, personnel, and other resource details and/or reallocations. Our hope is to make the move at the beginning of the 2019-2020 academic year. All full and part-time Dance faculty will move over to the Department of Theatre; Gregory Ramos, Chair of Theatre, will coordinate office relocations. The goal would also be to continue important collaborations between music and dance, which will be informed by the close partnership that has existed for the past 12 years. It is important to note that Theatre has often collaborated closely with Music as well.

I have announced a plan to step down as Chair of Music and Dance, effective April 1, 2019, but retain my position as Director of Dance. The Music faculty will likely propose a name change to the Department of Music and Dance (removing “Dance”); the Dance faculty support that proposal as well.

This proposal is fully endorsed by my fellow fulltime dance faculty colleagues. Please contact me with any questions regarding this proposal.

Sincerely,

Paul Besaw, Professor  
Chair of the Department of Music and Dance  
Director of Dance

### DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC AND DANCE

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The University of Vermont

March 14, 2019

I fully support the proposal to move Dance from the Department of Music and Dance to the Department of Theatre. The move makes sense for curricular reasons and will facilitate resource-sharing between these two vibrant performing arts programs. The two programs have collaborated extensively in the past, with joint appointments, shared classes, and shared performances, shared performance spaces, and other performance support, including a shared staff technical support person. Joining the two will allow them to do so more easily and will likely encourage new, innovative programming.

My team and I are working closely with Gregory Ramos, Chair of Theatre, Paul Besaw, current Chair of Music and Dance and Program Director of Dance to address any space or administrative issues and to provide guidance during the transition. A new chair for Music has been identified, and we will support them through this transition as well.

In sum, the proposal to move Dance to Theatre is well considered and I see it as a positive move for the performing arts at UVM.

Regards,

William Falls  
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences



The University of Vermont

March 11, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

Please let this serve as a letter of support for the change in departmental structure of two units in the College of Arts and Sciences, and a change in departmental name in accordance with this change.

We propose the Dance program, consisting of a Major and Minor in Dance move from the Department of Music to the Department of Theatre. The Department of Theatre would appropriately be renamed The Department of Theatre and Dance.

Since the time the dance program was created in the college in 2006, the Department of Theatre has supported the program's primary event, the annual spring dance concert (Dancing Uphill). Over the years, resource support has grown. Work study students, student stage managers, and other technical support has been provided. The lighting instruments that light the concert are from the Department of Theatre. Production and resource planning has involved continual communication between the two units of theatre and dance. It has been apparent for some years that there is significant overlap between the two units and that there is great potential for future opportunities. The Department of Theatre's mission is based on a balance between theory and practice. The practice of theatre takes place in our production season. Adding dance to our unit will expand student expose to the performing arts and provide future possibilities for faculty collaboration, student production opportunities, and curricular considerations. The creation of a Department of Theatre and Dance follows a model that exists at many universities across the U.S. The two units share many resource and pedagogical imperatives. Uniting the two will be a positive change for the constituents involved. The faculty of Theatre unanimously support the proposed change. We anticipate the merger of Theatre and Dance will add distinction and focus curriculum and artistic production.

Sincerely,

Gregory Ramos, Professor and Chair

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE**  
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The University of Vermont

March 18, 2018

#### MEMORANDUM

To: Curricular Affairs Committee, Faculty Senate Executive Council, Faculty Senate  
From: Gregory Ramos, Chair, Department of Theatre

Please let this serve as a name change proposal for the Department of Theatre. The Dance program consisting of a major and minor in Dance will move from the Department of Music to the Department of Theatre. The Department of Theatre is proposed to be renamed The Department of Theatre and Dance.

The purpose for this change is to strengthen creative productivity and to streamline resources for faculty and students in these artistic fields which share similar production needs as well as pedagogical approaches. Since the creation of the dance program in 2006 the Department of Theatre has provided significant production support. Programming and shared resources have become more and more interrelated as the dance program has developed. Faculty anticipate enhanced opportunities for students and faculty by joining these programs.

Currently the Department of Theatre offers a major in Theatre, a minor in Theatre, and minor in Musical Theatre. The Dance program offers a major and minor in Dance. The proposal to move Dance to the Department of Theatre will not alter the standing majors and minors for each of the distinct units. Faculty in the Department of Theatre as well as Dance Program faculty support the current structure of distinct major and minor requirement for each discipline.

The Department of Theatre is in discussions about future requirement changes to offer a 30 credit major as part of college wide changes currently taking place. Faculty in both units (Dance and Theatre) anticipate an artistic synergy in this merger leading to future opportunities in production and expanded experiential learning for students. Our goal is to build the strength, viability and size of these two units under one department heading. This can be achieved with the majors and minors currently in existence.



*The*  
**UNIVERSITY**  
*of* **VERMONT**

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC & DANCE

March 26, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

The full-time Music Faculty unanimously support the proposal to move the Dance Program from the Department of Music and Dance to the Department of Theatre.

We propose to change the name of our department to the Department of Music.

Sincerely,

Patricia Riley, Professor  
Associate Chair of the Department of Music and Dance