

Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

To: The UVM Faculty Senate

From: Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, Laura Almstead, Chair

Date: May 2, 2019

Re: Approval of 1) a proposal to change the name of the Department of Music and Dance in the College of Arts and Sciences to the Department of Music, and 2) a proposal from the Department of Theatre in the College of Arts and Sciences to change the name of the Department of Theatre to the Department of Theatre and Dance

At its meeting on May 2, 2019, the Curricular Affairs Committee approved the two actions recommended in the following memo.

The Curricular Affairs Committee approved proposals from the Department of Music and Dance and the Department of Theatre, both in the College of Arts and Sciences, to 1) change the name of the Department of Music and Dance to the Department of Music, and 2) change the name of the Department of Theatre to the Department of Theatre and Dance. The two proposals are related, but the name changes are separate actions that each require a Faculty Senate vote.

The fields of Dance and Theatre share similar production needs as well as pedagogical approaches. Since the inauguration of the Dance program in 2006, which currently includes a major and minor in Dance, the Department of Theatre has provided significant production support. Programming and shared resources have also become increasingly interrelated. In an effort to strengthen creative productivity and to streamline resources for faculty and students, a decision was made to move the Dance program and Dance faculty from the Department of Music and Dance to the Department of Theatre. Both Dance and Theatre faculty anticipate an artistic synergy in this merger leading to future opportunities in production and expanded experiential learning for students. This move will not change the existing major and minor in Dance or the existing major in Theatre, minor in Theatre, and minor in Musical Theatre. A letter from the Associate Chair of the Department of Music and Dance, Patricia Riley, indicated that the Music faculty unanimously support the proposal to move the Dance program from the Department of Music and Dance to the Department of Theatre. The Dance faculty also fully support the move. This movement of the Dance program and faculty from the Department of Music and Dance to the Department of Theatre is the rationale for the proposed name changes.

Both name change proposals were approved by the College of Arts and Sciences curriculum committee and faculty. Letters of support were also provided by:

- Bill Falls, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
- Paul Besaw, Dance Program Director and Chair of the Department of Music and Dance
- Gregory Ramos, Chair of the Department of Theatre