**Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate**

**To:** The UVM Faculty Senate
**From:** Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, Laura Almstead, Chair
**Date:** November 2, 2018
**Re:** Approval of a proposal for a new Undergraduate Certificate in Community Music: Organ submitted by the College of Arts and Sciences

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At its meeting on November 1, 2018, the Curricular Affairs Committee approved the actions recommended in the following memo.

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The Curricular Affairs Committee approved a proposal for a new Undergraduate Certificate in Community Music: Organ submitted by the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), Department of Music and Dance. David Neiweem will direct the proposed program. If approved by the Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees, the program will be offered beginning fall 2019.

***Program Description, Rationale, and Evidence for Demand***

The proposed Certificate in Community Music: Organ will utilize existing courses to cultivate a marketable skill for graduates and address a need in the wider community for trained organists. It is designed as a professional certificate to prepare students to work effectively as leaders in community-music making. Therefore, the proposed certificate can provide career opportunities for our graduates and increase UVM's impact on a broader community.

The number of churches with vacancies requiring organists prepared to accompany community singing is growing in Vermont as well as regionally and nationally. Nationally, music departments and conservatories are experiencing declining enrollments of students taking major studies both in organ playing and church music, which has contributed to vacancies in the field. There are students who have the technical background to play organ, but who do not wish to major in music. The proposed certificate is intended to provide students with credentials in this area an opportunity for further training.

***Relationship to Existing Programs***

The proposers note that there are no other certificates offered at UVM that are similar in content or have an overlap in focus. The certificate focuses on performance through applied lessons, practical administrative experience via a course in music business, and experiential learning through an internship. Although this program may be attractive to students minoring in music, it has a significantly different focus and does not require the coursework in three areas (music theory, performance and literature) that are the center of the minor.

***Curriculum***

Completion of the proposed certificate requires a total of 13 credits and includes four required courses plus three credit of electives.

Required Courses

| Number | Name | Credits |
|---|---|---|
| MUL 134 P | Intermediate Organ Playing | 3 |
| MUL 234 P | Advanced Organ Playing | 3 |
| MU 172 | Arts Management | 3 |
| AS 190 A or B | Capstone: Internship within the Community* | 1 |

*Internships will be supervised by the University Organist. Students will work for a semester with an area professional with the goals of: 1) observing typical rehearsal and performance problems in a professional setting, 2) assisting with rehearsals/general management of the organ program in a church, and 3) planning and playing for approximately five services.

Electives (3 credits selected from the courses below)

| Number | Name | Credits |
|---|---|---|
| MU 181 | Conducting | 3 |
| MU 080 | Vocal Techniques | 2 |
| MU 119 | Jazz Vocal Ensemble | 1 (may be repeated) |
| MU 122 | University Concert Choir | 1 (may be repeated) |
| MU 127 | Catamount Singers | 1 (may be repeated) |

***Admission Requirements and Advising***

The Certificate in Community Music: Organ will be open to all undergraduates. Although there are no specified pre-requisite courses for the required courses, admission to the certificate will require students to show background in keyboard playing via the audition requirements in place for MUL 134 and 234.

David Neiweem will serve as the academic advisor for the program. In most cases he would be listed as a secondary advisor for any student who might be in a different major but working on the Certificate.

***Anticipated Enrollment and Impact on Current Programs***

The proposers anticipate a limited enrollment, approximately one to two graduates per year, due to the audition requirements for MUL 134 and MUL 234. A short term goal is to develop a cohort of six students enrolled in the program at all times. Given the unique focus and limited enrollment, the proposers do not anticipate inauguration of the certificate will have an effect on any other programs.

***Resource Requirements***

No new resources are required. All courses are in place and have adequate room for the very moderate number of students expected to enroll in the proposed certificate. Existing legacy gifts provide support for a University Organist who can oversee the program (currently David Neiweem).

***Evidence of Support***

The proposed Certificate in Community Music: Organ was approved by the CAS Curriculum Committee and faculty. The Dean of CAS, Bill Falls, also indicated his support. Additionally, during the public comment period several faculty members from outside the Department of Music and Dance indicated strong support.

***Summary***

This certificate program utilizes existing courses to encourage those who can play the organ, but aren't interested in pursuing a music degree, an opportunity to develop the skills necessary to fulfill a community need for organists. It also leverages legacy gifts that have provided for a University Organist who can oversee the program and will provide scholarship support to students in the program. Benefits to the University and its students include 1) contributing to a credited, marketable skill for graduates; 2) creating a unique course of study that will help establish UVM as a leading presence in the market; 3) supporting the University's missions to promote experiential learning and community outreach. The proposed certificate will thus be a valuable addition to UVM's portfolio of undergraduate certificates.