

AY20 Expedited Program Review – Optional Program Response to the Dean’s Findings Form

Date: February 28, 2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: Program Review Committee Chairs: Grant Cochran and Mari Hahn, Professors of Music

Cc: Dean John Petraitis, CAS

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review: Optional Program Response to Dean’s Recommendation

Program/s in this review: BM, BA Music

Program response to dean’s findings:

The faculty would like to comment on one point that Interim Dean Petraitis brings up in the Music BM program review under the heading “Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success.”

The Dean’s criticism is that the number of degrees in our program (BA, BM Education and BM Performance) results in the fracturing of our students (and the accounting of majors) while stretching our faculty (and resources) thin.

This issue goes back to the time of Prioritization (and perhaps before then). Our music faculty will continue to make the case that not only are these degrees standard among many University music programs, but the variety of degrees enhances our department by affording our students choices.

I -- The various degrees do not add significantly to the cost of running our department, nor do they add significant additional burdens to faculty.

- Every class required for the BA is also required for the BM.
- BM Education and BM Performance students share about 90% of the same classes. (The only differences in unique course-requirements between the two are the “Methods” classes that are required of our Education students. This adds only one 2-credit class every semester to the department workload.)

II -- Based on enrollment numbers and student comments, we know our three degrees allow us to attract a larger pool of students than it would with just one degree.

- Not all students want to tackle the in-depth course of study of a BM degree (which demands about 100 credits in music alone).
- The BA (particularly in the absence of a music minor) is an attractive alternative.
- In order to fill much-needed teaching positions in our state, a BM Education emphasis is the standard path to follow in our discipline.