

Cover/Signature Page - Abbreviated Template/Abbreviated Template with Curriculum

Institution Submitting Request: University of Utah
 Proposed Title: School of Dance
 Currently Approved Title: Department of Ballet and Department of Modern Dance
 School or Division or Location: College of Fine Arts
 Department(s) or Area(s) Location: College of Fine Arts
 Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code¹ (for new programs): *N/A*
 Current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for existing programs): 50.0301
 Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs): 07/01/2016
 Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date: *MM/DD/YEAR*

Proposal Type (check all that apply):

Regents' General Consent Calendar Items		
<i>R401-5 OCHE Review and Recommendation; Approval on General Consent Calendar</i>		
SECTION NO.		ITEM
5.1.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor*
5.1.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Emphasis*
5.2.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	(CER P) Certificate of Proficiency*
5.2.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	(GCR) Graduate Certificate*
5.4.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Administrative Unit
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Transfer
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Restructure
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Consolidation
5.4.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conditional Three-Year Approval for New Centers, Institutes, or Bureaus
5.4.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Center
	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Institute
	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Bureau
5.5.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Out-of-Service Area Delivery of Programs
5.5.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Transfer
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Restructure
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Consolidation
5.5.3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name Change of Existing Programs
5.5.4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Discontinuation
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Suspension
5.5.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Administrative Unit

**Requires "Section V: Program Curriculum" of Abbreviated Template*

Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:

I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

Signature

Date: *MM/DD/YEAR*

Printed Name: *Name of CAO or Designee (Ruth Watkins – Signature will be collected after BoT Approval)*

¹ CIP codes must be recommended by the submitting institution. For CIP code classifications, please see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55>.

Program Request - Abbreviated Template
University of Utah
New Administrative Structure
School of Dance
08/21/2015

Section I: Request

The Faculty and Administrators of the Departments of Ballet and Modern Dance request that the administrative structure for the Departments of Ballet and Modern Dance be changed to a single School structure, The School of Dance, comprised of two distinct areas (Ballet and Modern Dance). The degrees currently offered in both Departments will remain intact with this administrative structural change. These degrees are: BFA Ballet, BFA Ballet with Teaching Emphasis, Ballet Studio Teaching Certificate, BFA Modern Dance, BFA Modern Dance Teaching, Minor in Modern Dance, MFA in Ballet, MFA Modern Dance, and Graduate Certificate in Screendance. Combining the faculty, staff and students from what are now two distinct departments into a School as one single unit meets the definition of a School as found in University of Utah Policy 2-004.

A school is generally a large unit of instruction and should incorporate multiple areas of specialization that are reflected in the degrees offered. A school often includes interdisciplinary cooperative efforts. A school generally offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees. Faculty are appointed to a school and may earn tenure in the school. The administrative head of a school is usually called a director, but this person's administrative level is equal to that of a department chair. The director reports to the dean of the college to which the school belongs.

All of the full-time faculty members on campus spring semester 2015 – tenure-line and career-line, in both Departments – voted unanimously on March 27, 2015 to approve this request (19 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention from a faculty member on sabbatical leave). The faculties' strong vote of approval for this request followed a full year of discussion in several joint faculty meetings convened to debate the topic, as well as in individual departmental faculty meetings throughout the year. The Chairs of each department also conferred with dance administrators from across the country. When the Chairs discussed the proposed request with our national accrediting agency, the National Association of Schools of Dance, during our re-accreditation visit March 11-14, 2015, the site visitors approved the proposed transition in administrative structure. On April 7, 2015, the full faculties from Ballet and Modern Dance held a joint meeting for all majors in the Departments of Ballet and Modern Dance (approximately 225 students) and presented the restructuring proposal to them. After 90 minutes of discussion with all students and faculty present, there was no voiced opposition to the idea, even though it was solicited, and instead, the group as a whole found wisdom as well as future opportunities and possibilities in the proposed action. All faculty, staff and students affected by this change, have been consulted and the overwhelming response was very positive. The proposal was then vetted by the CFA Curriculum committee on August 27, 2015 with a vote of 6-0 in support of the proposal, and then approved by Dr. Raymond Tymas-Jones – Dean of the College of Fine Arts on September 2, 2015.

Section II: Need

The creation of a School of Dance is necessary for dance to continue to thrive and flourish at the University of Utah and to keep pace with the changing expectations and demands of dance-related job opportunities across the country. There are no Schools of Dance in the Intermountain region and only a few in the United States (including University of Arizona, University of Southern California, and Texas Christian University). Most dance programs are housed in departments or in shared departments or schools, most often with theatre and/or music. Very few research universities in the United States have two separate dance units. Rather, each university generally has one unit housing all dance programs.

There was a time when having two separate departments at the University of Utah allowed the individual faculties to create unique and provocative curricula to meet the different demands of Ballet and Modern Dance in the national and international arena. The world of dance has changed dramatically since the departments' founding 50 years ago, however, and while the curricula for each specific degree have been reshaped and updated to meet the changing demands of the field, the administrative structures of the departments have not. The now apparent stumbling block in the way of future progress is the outdated administrative model of two separate departments. Arbitrarily separating students from two disciplines that have become inextricably linked does not prepare the students for the current field. Dance has evolved to be far more interdisciplinary than it had been in the past and a single school structure will foster that same environment here on campus.

It is important to note here that while the nomenclature and accounting records are unique to each department, the current operating structure reflects that of a single unit. The departments currently share four faculty members (joint appointments), a single Executive Assistant and a single Administrative Officer. We also share the Hayes Christensen Theatre in the Marriott Center for Dance as well as all of the costs associated with the theatre upkeep, supplies and equipment, and technical crew and staffing. Unfortunately, we nevertheless have been offering redundant courses i.e., two kinesiology courses, two dance history courses, two dance technology courses, and two freshman seminar courses. We also transfer funds between the two units to cover teaching for each other. In short, the Departments of Ballet and Modern Dance already operate in large measure as a single unit, with the notable exceptions of ineffective amounts of funds transfers to and from each department, redundant course offerings, and unnecessary restrictions for students in both departments vis-à-vis potential possibilities for interdisciplinary projects, shared classes and performance opportunities. All of this reasoning speaks to the need for the creation of a single administrative unit, rather than two separate, small units.

Perhaps the most similar administrative structure is in our own College with the School of Music. The School of Music houses several distinct areas, each with an area head who serves as a member of the Director's advisory committee. Multiple degrees are awarded in the School of Music, with curricular design, student acceptance and teaching, and other degree specific issues handled by the area head and faculty members in a single area. The Director is then responsible for the management of the entire school and can see the larger picture for 'Music' at the University of Utah. This is the model we need and propose here for Dance at the University of Utah.

Section III: Institutional Impact

The current Departments of Ballet and Modern Dance will be dissolved and all faculty and staff appointments, tenure-line, career-line, visiting and adjunct, will be transferred to the new School of Dance. The School of Dance will have a single Retention, Promotion and Tenure Statement for Tenure-line Faculty and will be part of the College of Fine Arts with the Director reporting to the Dean of the College.

Because all degree programs will remain intact, we do not anticipate a significant effect on the enrollments in the current departments of Ballet and Modern Dance. Furthermore, this administrative structure change will not affect other departments or programs on campus. The new School will, however, increase the opportunities for more interdisciplinary teaching, projects and research across multiple genres of dance and thereby strengthen the teaching and research of the faculty and the work of the students.

The Marriott Center for Dance currently houses both departments and will be the home for the School of Dance. We have already outgrown the space and have turned to the College of Fine Arts to help us secure additional studio space. The College paid for a partial remodel of the West Institute to provide one additional studio that will be shared this academic year by the Departments of Ballet and Theatre, and the School of Music. Although this helps meet current demands, we are still hopeful of securing additional studio space in the future. Nevertheless, the School of Dance can begin to operate in the spaces we currently have. Thus, no new building project is necessary for the creation of the School Dance.

Section IV: Finances

The creation of the School of Dance will not produce any significant cost savings, but instead will allow for more effective delivery of the curricula and a dramatic streamlining of all business affairs and accounting. It will also allow for more effective scheduling of teaching assignments for faculty in the school. Scholarships currently set aside for students pursuing a specific degree (e.g., Ballet BFA, Modern Dance MFA) will continue to be directed to that specific group of students. We will inform all of our donors of the new administrative structure and will assure them that their contributions will continue to be directed towards the students they have previously designated.

Teaching/research faculty members currently serve as chairpersons for the two separate departments. The time commitment is extreme as they both continue to teach in addition to their administrative duties. The solution has been to hire adjunct faculty to cover some of the teaching load for the units. The creation of the School of Dance will require a new base-budgeted 1.0 FTE tenure-line position to serve as the Director of the School. The current Chairpersons will return to full-time teaching in the School and a national search will be conducted. Our goal is that the School will come into existence July 1, 2016.

Not directly linked to this proposal, but mentioned here for the sake of full disclosure, is the ongoing need for additional tenure-line faculty members whose expertise lies in ballet education with areas of expertise beyond Ballet technique. There has been an inequity between the numbers of tenure-line faculty in the departments of Ballet and Modern Dance and Dean Tymas-Jones is currently working to ameliorate the situation. An immediate solution to this problem, however, as mentioned above, is not a pre-requisite for the successful creation of the School of Dance. The continued success of the School of Dance nevertheless will rely on filling these multiple positions in the near future.

The Creation of the School of Dance will not have any financial impact on other programs or units within the College or University.

The College of Fine Arts has four academic advisors in partnership with University College who advise all majors and minors in the current departments of Ballet and Modern Dance. These same advisors will continue to advise all undergraduate majors and minors in the new School of Dance. Because the current major and minor programs will retain their current form within the new School of Dance, the creation of the School will not impact the current advising structure for the students and will not change the current advising load for our advisors.



Date: September 3, 2015

To: Edward Barbanell
Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies

From: Raymond Tymas-Jones
Associate Vice President for the Arts
Dean, College of Fine Arts

Subject: Proposal to create a School of Dance within the College of Fine Arts

I am writing in support of the proposal to combine the current independent Departments of Ballet and Modern Dance into a new School of Dance. This new School of Dance will house—in one academic and administrative structure—all the current degree offerings in the Departments of Ballet and Modern Dance, as well as all the current faculty and staff in these two departments.

As the proposal makes clear, this change will create more efficiencies, as well as help the discipline of Dance at the University of Utah move toward a more interdisciplinary approach that is now standard in both the academy and the professional arena. For these reasons, I am in strong support of this proposal.

The faculties of both Departments vetted this proposal, and voted 19-0 (with 1 abstention) to approve the proposal (3/27/15). The College of Fine Arts Curriculum Committee then considered the proposal, approving it unanimously (8/27/15). With this memo, I am now adding my approval to the proposal (9/2/15).

October 2, 2015

To All Concerned:

I am writing as Acting Chair of the Department of Ballet to express my full support of the proposal to create a School of Dance in the College of Fine Arts. Over the past year Steve Koester, Chair of Modern Dance, and I have worked closely with all of our faculty members and students on the proposal. As noted in the proposal itself, all fulltime faculty – tenure line and career line - in both Departments voted in favor of the proposal (with one abstention from a faculty member on sabbatical leave).

I firmly believe that creating a School of Dance will allow for more interaction among our students and faculty and provide even more opportunities for student success.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal.

Sincerely,



Brent Schneider
Acting Chair, Department of Ballet
Professor, Department of Modern Dance



October 2, 2015

From: Stephen Koester
Chair, Department of Modern Dance

Re: Chair's Letter of Support for the Creation of a School of Dance

To All Concerned:

As Chair of the Department of Modern Dance, I write to express my strong support for the creation of a School of Dance as now being reviewed for approval. Said School would form an umbrella to house the disciplines of modern dance and ballet, provide greater synergies and opportunities between these two disciplines, and provide future opportunities such as developing a new degree that would bridge these two disciplines. A School would allow us to address an ever-changing field and best prepare students for careers in the field upon graduation. While the Departments of Ballet and Modern Dance are both nationally recognized as top programs, a School would provide even greater recognition for dance at the University of Utah, and make it a true leader and powerhouse of dance in academia.

The proposal before you is the result of several years' work in which faculty from the two Departments carefully considered the pros and cons of forming a School. After full deliberation, faculty in the Department of Modern Dance all voted in favor of forming a School with one abstention from a faculty member who was on sabbatical and as a consequence not a part of final discussions nor on-campus at the time of the vote (the Department of Ballet will provide a formal recording of their faculty vote, which was unanimously in favor to create a School, and separate Chair's letter of support).

As one of the chief architects of the proposal to form a School of Dance, I am excited with the possibilities that a School may afford. Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Koester', written in a cursive style.

Stephen Koester
Chair, Department of Modern Dance
University of Utah
801/587-9809
stephen.koester@utah.edu