

Evaluation Report for Program Review Face to Face Meeting

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: Theatre and Dance (BA, BFA, BSE) Majors and Minors, 2023-2024

Date: 4/18/2024

Invited: Provost John Chenoweth; Dean Mike Dugan (Arts & Comm); Department Chair/Program Coordinator Eric Appleton; faculty and staff in the program; Audit & Review Team Chair James Collins; Audit & Review team member Cody Marie Busch; Assessment Representative Katy Casey

Overview of review team evaluation, program comments:

- a) Progress has been made since previous review. Some program goals from the 2018 self-study were addressed. The program offers many emphases, including a BFA in Stage Management that is somewhat unique in the region, as well as a Theatre BA. The program is also one of the few in the region to offer a BSE and minor in Theatre Education, and the Dance Minor program is known for its quality and easy-integration with other majors.
- b) Re-accreditation is being pursued with a campus visit from NAST scheduled for 2025
- c) The issues experienced with ticketing software have been resolved.
 - i) Revenue from tickets changes every year so it is difficult to count on a certain amount of funds. Loss of SUFAC funding has impacted program budget. The budget is tight, but the program continues to find resources needed to support productions.
- d) Program noted that some students choose to take their time, which impacts the overall program completion number – the current number of credits for a BFA is appropriate and keeping in line with BFA programs. Understandably the BSE takes more time for students to complete because of coordinating licensure and curricular components.

Discussion of Review Team's evaluation:

1 – Provide an update on the two open faculty lines and address the issues the program faces with salary compression.

- i) Successful faculty searches for the two open lines
- ii) The faculty are reviewing the curriculum and making changes to address student needs and time to degree.

2 – Share the interests/desires of students attracted to the theater program. This seems to be a good time to think about how the program could reach a broader audience, such as helping students develop skills that are marketable if they choose not to pursue live performance.

- i) The curriculum and theater productions go hand in hand. The program emphasizes work in the industry and is honest about prospects. Personalized advising helps students plan for career(s) after graduation. They have 13 credits in the BFA program that are taken as electives

and students work with their advisors to determine what those 13 credits should be to achieve goals. The program also spoke to their work to develop a minor that would be more administrative in nature to replace the arts management minor.

Commitment of faculty and staff is significant and includes time outside classroom instruction to support practicums and theater productions. There was some discussion of reviewing workloads to better align with what is currently feasible. Program appears to be trying to do too much with too little. Discussion included ideas on how to count instructional time put into preparing for productions and implement the assessment plan using existing structures of student evaluation.

Recommended Actions:

Recommended Action #1

Complete work towards developing a meaningful and sustainable assessment plan. Describe the specific methods used to collect data and report out the data collected, and how it's used to inform decision-making. Specifically, leverage the information learned from student assessment data to advocate for program resources.

Recommended Action #2

Create a program management plan to address the workload of faculty and staff, review activities to determine how to best invest time and resources.

Recommended Action #3

Formalize the curricular plan to include the amount of time required in preparing for performances, outside of enrolled credit hours.

Recommended Action #4

Work with College administration to create an enrollment plan addressing the following, a) identify a sustainable number of faculty and staff given current enrollment, and b) when, and to what extent, will the needed technical and facilities upgrades will be made.

Recommended Result:

Continuation with major concerns in one or more of the four areas

Next Self-Study and/or Progress Report Due Dates:

1 - Next FULL self-study will be due to the Dean on May 1, 2030 and to the Assessment Office on August 1, 2030

2 - A progress report will be due October 1, 2027, to the Dean, and November 1, 2027, to the Assessment Office

For a copy of the full evaluation report and detailed comments, please reach out to the assessment office: assessment@uww.edu.