

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, HAYWARD

DESIGNATION CODE: 00-01 CAPR 6

DATE SUBMITTED: March 1, 2001

TO: The Academic Senate

FROM: The Committee on Academic Planning and Resources

SUBJECT: Five-Year Program Review of the Department of Theatre and Dance

ACTION

REQUESTED: Approval of the Five-Year Program Review of the Department of Theatre and Dance and continuation of the program without modification.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Residing in the School of Arts, Letters, and Social Sciences, the Department of Theatre and Dance offers a B.A. degree in Theatre Arts with nine possible options: Dance, Acting Directing, Musical Theatre, Technical and Design, Children's Theatre and Dance, Literature and Performance, Recreational and Community Theatre, and Creative Arts. The Department also offers Minors in Theatre, Children's Dance and Theatre, and Dance, as well as Liberal Studies Options in both Theatre and Dance.

On February 15, 2001, the Department Chair, Professor Tom Hird, met with CAPR to discuss their Five-Year Review and Strategic Plan. The Department of Theatre and Dance had submitted the following documents to CAPR as part of the 1995-2000 Review:

- The Department Response to Program Review Report
- Institutional Statistics for Theatre and Dance
- Program Reviewer Report
- Mission Statement and Goals 2000 – Outcomes Assessment format
- Documents Related to 1999 meetings with Community and Professional Advisory Committee
- Recent Report to ALSS Chairs and Dean – 1999
- Instructionally Related Activity, Five-Year Plan – 1996
- Annual Program Unit Plans – 1994 and 1997
- ALSS Academic Program Evaluation – 1994-5

FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM REVIEW (1995-2000)

The Theatre and Dance program describes its focus as comprehensive and its major as providing a broad-based liberal arts degree. The program supports majors and minors in both theatre and dance, as well as liberal studies options in both disciplines. As their mission states, the CSUH Department of Theatre and Dance is committed to "preparing students for professional work through collaborative and independent experiences, engaging in interdisciplinary experiences that stimulate the creative imagination and critical thinking, and creating, designing, and performing in productions that reflect American and world culture on campus, in the Bay Area, the U.S. and abroad." The faculty consists of 5 full-time faculty members and approximately 2 lecturers. The department engages in several programs that enrich the University and the Bay Area Community. The department produces a prolific number of stage productions each year (approximately 10), reflecting a range of different genres. The department has hosted

international women playwrights and produced their work, Norwegian playwright Cecile Loveid in 1997 and Chilean Playwright Isidora Aguirre in 1999. In the past five years, student productions have won awards at festivals here and abroad, for example at the Kennedy Center/ American College Theatre Festival and the American College Dance Festival. Students have had the opportunity to perform abroad. Last year, a company of students, alumni, and students performed *The Glass Menagerie* at the Project Istropolitana 2000 in Bratislava, Slovakia. Two professors in the department have been honored by outside organizations. The department continues its commitment to a non-Eurocentric aesthetic in its curriculum and performances.

Reflected in their Academic Performance Review Statistics for 1999, the total numbers of majors in Theatre and Dance has averaged 45 majors per year between 1994-1999, showing a low of 37 majors in 1999. However, the Theatre division has increased the number of courses that they offer during that time by 21.1% and the number of sections offered by 33.3%, indicating their service to the General Education program and service to non-majors. FTES in Theatre course offerings have increased by 16.1%. The Dance division has increased their course offerings by 46.7% and the number of sections offered by 43.8% relying solely on part-time faculty. FTES in Dance course offerings have increased by 61%.

OUTSIDE REVIEWER'S COMMENTS AND THE DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSE

In his report to the department, Dr. Cooke, Chair of the Department of Theatre Arts at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, indicated the strengths, opportunities, weaknesses, and threats of CSUH's Department of Theatre and Dance. As strengths, Dr. Cooke cites the creativity and enthusiasm of the people committed to the department, faculty, lecturers, and students. He found the department to have a clear mission and integrated curriculum. The department offers "a well-rounded liberal arts education, a hands on experience of theatre arts, and a practical training in performance skills". Dr. Cooke praises CSUH's Theatre and Dance Department for the quality and quantity of work from such a small department. He further recognizes the department's considerable and unique strengths in non-Eurocentric theatre, international productions and connections, valuable community service, and the integration of the Theatre and Dance branches of the department. Further emphasizing the positive aspects of the program, Dr. Cooke enumerates some opportunities that the department could capitalize on. He cites: the rich arts culture in the Bay Area, the national trend of focusing on dance-theatre collaboration, the genuine community created by the department's favorable student-teacher ratio, international opportunities with increased fundraising, and other forms of community support.

In his report, Dr. Cooke also indicates some weaknesses, threats, and areas for improvement for the department to consider. He cites the small number of overworked faculty trying to maintain a heavy production schedule. This situation has the potential to create faculty and student burnout. He also addresses the crucial problem of student recruitment, and emphasizes the potential for a scholarship program to help draw students from out of state. Dr. Cooke recognizes the frustration of the office and technical support staff due to excessive workload and cumbersome procedures. Skills in technology could help alleviate the considerable burdens of the office staff. Lastly, Dr. Cooke discusses the problem of the Dance option being entirely staffed by part-time faculty, in spite of their considerable success. He recommends that the University secure a tenure-track position in Dance to reduce this unreasonable burden on part-time faculty. According to Dr. Cooke, the threats that the department faces include the following: loss of faculty due to burnout and overwork, budget restrictions that impact the students' experience and the unique opportunities currently offered by the department, the reduction of Theatre Arts majors as reflected in national trends, and the duplication of the department's services by other colleges and universities in the Bay Area. Although Dr. Cooke

recognizes the lack of control that the department has over these conditions, he does offer some practical suggests on how to mitigate their effects.

The department concurs with Dr. Cooke's summary and evaluation of their program. Many of Dr. Cooke's concerns were already being addressed in the action plans developed by the department with the help of their advisory committee, Community and Professional Advisory Committee, formed in 1998, and are reflected in their Five-Year Strategic Plan.

FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN (2000-2005)

The department is in the midst of ongoing program review, goal identification, and outcomes assessment. As a result of this process, the department is identifying the goals of promoting faculty collaboration within their department as well as cooperation with other departments. Theatre and Dance emphasizes the need to continue to strengthen community ties and support of the program, related events, and performances. The department is expounding on these goals by developing concrete action plans to secure results.

Dr. Cooke commended the department for their own awareness of their strengths and weaknesses, and their recognition of what areas they should work on. As a part of their response to the Dr. Cooke's report, the department is exploring possible actions to respond to existing trends in Theatre and Dance nationwide and internationally. They are exploring expanding the content of their program in the following areas: TV/ Film, Musical Theatre, International Theatre, Multicultural Theatre, and Performing Arts for the Retired. The Department also is considering options that would create a Visual and Performing Arts Division within ALSS to enhance cooperation with other departments to fulfill mutual need, and various efforts to increase their budget, and to enhance the recruitment of new majors.

CAPR RECOMMENDATION

CAPR recommends approval of the Five-Year Program Review of the Department of Theatre and Dance without modification. The Department of Theatre and Dance is scheduled to conduct its next Five-Year Review in 2004-2005.