TO: The Academic Senate

FROM: The Committee on Academic Planning and Resources

SUBJECT: Five-Year Program Review for the Department of Music

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of the Program Review for the Department of Music

BACKGROUND: On October 7, 1999, CAPR met with William Wohlmacher, Chair of the Department of Music, to discuss the five-year program review for the department. The following materials were available for review by CAPR prior to the meeting: The Self-Study of the department submitted to the National Association of Schools of Music; the site visit report prepared by Edward Kvet, Central Michigan University and James Sorensen, University of Puget Sound; the Department’s response to the site visit report; and updates to the reports.

The Department of Music offers the Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts. The BA degree program is designed for students who have career goals in performance, composition, jazz or public school or private teaching, and for those who intend to study at the graduate level. The MA degree program is designed for students pursuing careers as public or private school teachers; for school and college music teachers who wish to increase their professional effectiveness; and for those who plan further study at the doctoral level. The Department had 175 majors in Fall 1998, a 10% increase over the previous two years and a 21% increase over the previous five years. For 1998-99 there were slightly more than 18 FTEF; approximately 51% of the teaching in the department was done by part-time lecturers.

PROGRAM REVIEW: The reviewers identified the following strengths in the Department: (1) Talented, dedicated and caring faculty; (2) Stable and capable departmental leadership; (3) Well-maintained facilities and equipment; (4) Media/Music Library and Music Resource Center including staff support; (5) Overall staff support in the Department; and (6) Strong commitment to service to the surrounding community.

They listed the following concerns as Areas for Improvement: (1) The need to hire additional tenure-track faculty; (2) The immediate need to catalog the gift of 5000 CDs and add the holdings of the Music Resource Center to HAYSTAC; (3) Limited scope of the program including curricular offerings and performance experiences which take advantage of the ethnic and cultural diversity of the student and community population; (4) The need to explore alternative instructional delivery systems such as ITV to provide greater participation of non-majors in music course work or CATV to broadcast performances to the at-large community; (5) The publication of complete information relating to the Music Department’s mission, goals, and objectives and its size and scope in the University Catalog and other printed materials.
DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO THE REVIEWERS: The Department was given approval to hire two new tenure-track faculty, one each in 1997-98 and 1998-99. However, Chair Wohlmacher reported to CAPR that the number of tenure-track faculty in Fall 1999 has dropped to 9 despite the new hire from 10 in Fall 1998 and the percentage of courses taught by part-time lecturers has increased to 53%. The Department has a tenure-track search approved for 1999-2000.

The library budget was augmented in 1999 and the department has been working with its library liaison to acquire specialized material and to reinstate canceled periodical subscriptions. Progress has been made in cataloging the Lewis CD collection, and approximately one-third of the holdings had been cataloged as of March 1999.

To the reviewers' concern that the Department is lacking course offerings that take advantage of the cultural and ethnic diversity of the region, the Department responded that it has expanded and will continue to expand course offerings as much as budgetary limitations will allow. Several existing courses do have an emphasis on cultural and ethnic diversity and diverse guest lecturers and performers appear often on campus.

The Department is exploring alternative instructional delivery systems and the increased use of CATV. Selected performances have been broadcast in the past and an expansion of this practice is anticipated in the future.

The Department has updated the program mission statement in the University Catalog.

CAPR REVIEW:
Professor Wohlmacher reported that enrollments continue to increase. Retention of students in the department is successful because a lot of individual attention is given to the students to get them though the rigorous program. The department recruits new students in area high schools, using department faculty and a new student woodwind quintet composed of scholarship students. The quartet also visits elementary and middle schools.

The Department is concerned about the ethnic and cultural diversity of its offerings. Professor Wohlmacher explained that there is now more emphasis on diversity and the use of technology in music than there was ten years ago. The Department has chosen to modify content of existing courses rather than changing the curriculum to accommodate these new emphases. New faculty will bring new capabilities in these areas. Courses that incorporate cultural and ethnic diversity include Introduction to World Music, Music of Our Time, Music and Dance, History of Rock and Roll, and History of Jazz.

CAPR EVALUATION:
CAPR found that the Department of Music has a strong program, increasing enrollments, and a good record of placement of its graduates. CAPR recommends approval of the Five-Year Program Review and that the Music Programs be continued without modification.