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## DOC 2018-04 Move the Theatre, Dance, and Performance Technology Program to the Department of Music from the Department of Communication

University of Dayton. College of Arts and Sciences

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## PROPOSAL TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE

**TITLE:** Move the Theatre, Dance, and Performance Technology Program to the Department of Music from the Department of Communication

**SUBMITTED BY:** College of Arts and Sciences

**DATE:**

**ACTION:** Legislative Authority

**REFERENCE:** DOC 2014-04: Actions Pertaining to Degree Programs and Academic Departments

**SUMMARY:**

The College of Arts and Sciences is proposing to move the Theatre, Dance, and Performance Technology Program (TDP) from the Department of Communication to the Department of Music. This is a purely administrative realignment. The degree programs and courses offered by the two departments and one program in question will be maintained. The proposed move will better align TDP with other arts programs, and enable the associated faculty to better facilitate the College's academic mission, foster collaboration and innovation, and produce efficiencies. Faculty votes in both departments and the TDP program reflect strong support for the administrative move.

**RATIONALE:**

Moving TDP from the Department of Communication to the Department of Music will more fully align TDP with the other units in the Arts Division of the College of Arts and Sciences. The logic of this move is underscored by the reclassification of the Department of Communication from the Humanities to the Social Sciences, effective July 1, 2018, thus reducing the connection between TDP faculty and other Communication faculty. The move will enable the associated faculty in TDP to more broadly participate in, and contribute to, the strategic mission of the College, and will provide TDP faculty with enhanced opportunities to collaborate and develop professionally as artists, teachers and scholars.

The move is also expected to increase the synergy that already exists between the Department of Music and TDP, as well as provide space for the Department of Communication to more fully engage with the social science departments. TDP and the Department of Music share administrative, classroom, and performance spaces on the first and fourth floors of Fitz Hall. Management of those spaces would become more natural with this move. Their faculties and students are in frequent contact and have similar creative and scholarly goals, and these goals would be better served if realized through more intentional collaboration encouraged by this realignment. Both faculties share commonality in the creation of artistic activity and creative scholarship, and this move would improve the tenure and promotion policies and practices that govern TDP. Currently non-artists in the Department of Communication must learn about a TDP faculty member's work to assess their portfolio; this would be much easier for a faculty in Music to accomplish. There are also opportunities for curricular integration between TDP and the Department of Music which currently cannot be realized in a way that maximizes the benefit to students.

TDP is currently staffed by two tenure-line faculty, one of whom serves as TDP Program Director, four lecturers and an artist-in-residence. Music is staffed by 13 tenure-line faculty including the chair, five lecturers, seven artists-in-residence, and 20+ adjunct faculty. The Department of Music has one full-time, 12-month administrator; one full-time, 10-month position; one full-time, 9-month position; and one additional part-time, 12-month position focused on recruiting, and TDP has one administrative assistant. Music and TDP will review ways to best utilize staffing resources.

### 1. DESCRIPTION OF THE EFFECT AND ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

The only department directly impacted by this change is the Department of Communication, where TDP is currently housed. Within Communication there is a CMM/THR concentration which currently has one student in it. This concentration will be maintained as a curricular option for students, and does not need to be discontinued due to the move of TDP to the Department of Music.

TDP already exists as a program within the Arts Division of the College of Arts and Sciences, so no changes will be made to divisional membership, and therefore there will be no impact on college level and university level committees.

## 2. EVIDENCE OF THE NEED FOR THE NEW DEPARTMENT

The Department of Communication in its current form spans three divisions of the College of Arts and Sciences (Humanities, Social Science, Arts) which presents a very difficult management challenge to navigate. In fact, given its size relative to the rest of the Department of Communication it is unlikely TDP would become a priority within the department, thereby limiting its potential to grow and contribute to larger university priorities. With the Department of Communication's shift to the social sciences, TDP's more natural fit remains in the arts division, and given the close collaboration with the Department of Music and potential development of existing synergies, Music is the most logical home for TDP.

It bears noting that those with little knowledge of the arts conduct the current review of TDP tenure and promotion materials. Moving TDP to the Department of Music would rectify this challenge. The change in department would also provide for more curricular integration for both TDP and Music. There would be more synergy in the areas of curricular development, student recruitment and retention, artistic activities, creative scholarship, and department service than currently exists for TDP within the Department of Communication.

## 3. SIMILAR PROGRAMS AT THE UNIVERSITY AND PEER INSTITUTIONS

The University currently has several academic programs that exist outside of departments, and one that exists in a department. The "free-standing" programs are populated by faculty from various departments. For example, the Women's and Gender Studies Program delivers courses through various departments and its faculty consist of members from Philosophy, History, Communication, English and other disciplines. Criminal Justice Studies currently resides within the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, but also draws faculty from a variety of other departments, such as Political Science. TDP is different from these academic programs in that its faculty only teach within the TDP Program, and thus their tenure status runs through the home department for the program. With only two tenure-line faculty, TDP is best served if housed within a department.

Other schools have various models for administratively housing programs such as TDP. At some schools the TDP faculty is large enough for it to become its own department. At other institutions Theatre is attached to a Communication Department that is more explicitly aligned with humanities and the arts than here at the University of Dayton. Still other schools house their Theatre or TDP programs within Schools of the Performing Arts. Theatre programs exist within Schools of Music or Departments of Music. There is no consistent model, as each of these options is viable.

## 4. DESCRIPTION OF THE CURRICULUM OF THE PROGRAMS TO BE HOUSED IN THE NEW DEPARTMENT

This move will not change anything within the curricula of the Department of Music, Department of Communication or the TDP Program. TDP courses are already considered Arts courses, and this will not change. Over time, however, it is reasonable to assume further curricular synergy will occur with the move.

## 5. PROSPECTIVE ENROLLMENT

There will be no changes to current enrollment based on this move; however, the synergy between the Department of Music and the TDP Program will likely result in increased success in student recruitment and retention for both programs.

## 6. ATTRACTING AND RETAINING UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS

Impact in this regard will be positive. TDP is a BA program that does not have a required audition for admission. The TDP Program has focused its new curriculum, programming and outreach efforts in ways that invite more applicants from underrepresented groups. TDP will be launching a recruitment strategy directed at diverse youth theatre companies that create theatre for social change, such as Albany Park Theatre Project and Free Street Theatre. The Department of Music would benefit by this potential increase in diverse students in their shared spaces and engaging in the collaborative efforts. Diverse students with interests in music, theatre, and dance, are more likely to be retained when there are curricular efficiencies that will be enabled by this realignment. By combining efforts to recruit at performing arts recruitment events, TDP and Music are more likely to attract and retain students for both programs who are seeking to engage with music, dance, and theatre during their academic career. Again, increased synergy between TDP and the Department of Music will likely have a positive impact on attracting and retaining underrepresented groups.

## 7. DESCRIPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND LINES OF REPORTING

Currently the TDP Program Director reports to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. TDP faculty courses are scheduled by the TDP Program Director and reviewed by the Chair of the Department of Communication. With this realignment,

the TDP Director retains direct-line reporting to the Dean and dotted-line reporting to the Chairperson of the Music Department. Merit as well as tenure and promotion review will be done by the Music Department Chairperson.

#### 8. AVAILABILITY AND ADEQUACY OF STAFF AND RESOURCES

The current staffing and library resources are adequate, and no future additional need is foreseen due to this move.

#### 9. PROJECTED ADDITIONAL COSTS

Projected costs will not increase because of this realignment, except the normal operating expenses that would increase as enrollment grows.

#### 10. CONSULTATION

Faculty within the Department of Music, Department of Communication and TDP Program were consulted at various times regarding this realignment. Feedback was solicited, answers to questions were provided and faculty from both units voted on the proposal. The results of those votes were as follows:

Department of Music (all full-time faculty): 16-Yes, 1-No, 2-Abstain March 14, 2018

Department of Communication (ranked faculty, Incl. TDP): 12-Yes, 0-No, March 14, 2018

Theatre, Dance and Performance Technology alone (all full-time faculty): 7-Yes, 0-No March 9, 2018