

TO: Bethami Dobkin, Provost

**FROM: Tom Poundstone, Chair
Academic Senate**

DATE: March 8, 2010

**RE: Senate Action S-09/10-15CA
Revised Theatre Minor**

At the March 4, 2010 General Meeting of the Academic Senate, the attached proposal for a Revised Theatre Minor was approved on the Consent Agenda. This action was sent to the Senate from the Undergraduate Educational Policies Committee where the proposal was approved by a vote of 7-0-0. This action was assigned Senate Action # S-09/10-15CA.

Attachment

cc: Br. Ronald Gallagher
Dean Steve Woolpert

Performing Arts Department Theatre Program: UEPC Proposal for a revised theatre minor

Rationale:

The UEPC recently approved a new track in the theatre major, "Technical Theatre and Design". This second track will be added to existing theatre major track, now retitled "Performance and Theatre Studies." As a further development of these curricular changes we now seek to revise and restructure our theatre minor.

Our goals:

- Retain four required foundational courses, providing an introduction to disciplinary knowledge for all theatre minors
 - Provide more elective opportunities for minors, through a combination of lower and upper-division course options
 - Address concerns raised in our recent program review regarding minor's "ease of use", with a clearer and simpler articulation of requirements
- Enhance recruitment and retention of minors
- While increasing the existing theatre minor by .5 units (from 6.5 to 7), retain parity with the minors in our sister programs: Dance (7 units) and Music (6.5 units.) **This proposal has no impact on other departments.**
- Preserve the interdisciplinarity which is central to our department's approach to performing arts and retain the overall symmetry with the music and dance minors.
- Support advisors in other departments, with a more "legible" catalog presentation of course options

NOTE: NO NEW COURSES ARE REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THIS NEW THEATRE MINOR.

The UEPC is being asked to approve this curricular change so that we can implement the new minor in the 2010-11 course catalog. The Department believes that this is essentially a reorganization of already existing courses to better serve the needs of students who wish to minor in theatre.

The new theatre minor proposed would require 7.0 units total:

LOWER DIVISION COURSES (3.0 units total):

- 1: Perceiving the Performing Arts
- 30: Foundations I
- 36: Masterpieces of Drama (.5) AND 38: Stagecraft (.5)

AND FOUR ADDITIONAL UNITS (4.0 units total) IN THESE AREAS:

- 1 unit in acting
- 1 unit in production/design
- 1 unit in theatre theory/history/criticism
- 1 elective unit (approval required)

We do not think it will be necessary to enumerate the course options in the basic catalog description of the minor. But we indicate those options below, to suggest to the UEPC how many ways our existing course offerings might be combined to tailor a minor program of study responding to a particular student's needs and interests.

Options for required **Acting** unit: Perfa 33: Principles of Performance
Perfa 133: Characterization and Scene Study
Perfa 137: Advanced Acting (.5)
Perfa 37-01: Performance Lab (.25) [topic varies]

Options for required **Theory/criticism** unit: Perfa 130: Foundations II
Perfa 135: Bay Area Theatre
Perfa 136: Theatre: Special Studies [topic varies]

Perfa 160: Special Topics in Performing Arts [topic varies]

Options for required **production/design** unit: Perfa 132: Performing Arts in Production (.5 or 1.0)
Perfa 138: Stage Lighting Design (.5)
Perfa 139: Design for the Stage (.5)
Perfa 140: Stage Management
Perfa 37-02: Tech Theatre Lab (.25) [Topic varies]

Options for required **elective** unit: In addition to any of the above courses, a student might petition for an independent student or internship, or to take a course in another department as an elective (for example, Shakespeare, Playwriting, Art History, Life Drawing).

Revised Catalog language for UEPC approval:

Minor Requirements: Theatre

1, 30, 36 (.5), 38 (.5) and FOUR additional units: 1 unit in acting, 1 unit in theory/history/criticism, 1 unit in production/design and 1 unit in an approved elective.

In addition to the minor proposal, the Theatre program would like to offer Perfa 60 on an experimental basis for a second time. Here are the reasons for the request:
"Perfa 60 was approved by the chair of the UEPC as a new, experimental course titled "World Theatre", and first offered in Fall 2008. We are requesting an extension of this course's experimental status, so that we can again offer the course in Spring 2010.
The focus of the proposed Spring 2010 course will again be "World Theatre." Our reasons for wanting to offer this course again on a provisional basis follow:

Since we piloted Perfa 60/"World Theatre" in Fall 08 the college has adopted a new set of core curriculum requirements. Now we'd like to offer Perfa 60 a second time (ie on an experimental basis), so that we can determine how to best align this new course with the college-wide learning outcomes adopted last spring, the semester following the one in which Perfa 60 was piloted. Allowing us to offer the course once more, with adjustments to both content and pedagogy, will give us the "data" we need to shape this lower division Performing Arts course in a direction that best responds to the new core curriculum.

Also, we've not determined yet whether we should pursue a lower division "variable topic" general education course, paralleling the existing upper division Perfa 160 "Special Topics in Performing Arts" (which currently rotates between the separate programs in our department); or whether there's a case to be made for ultimately adopting a new lower division THEATRE course with its own

number and a non-rotating focus on "World Theatre". We think a second semester of course evals will provide a clearer picture of student response and interest."

Thanks to the membership of the UEPC for consideration of both matters.

Rebecca Engle

Theatre Program Director

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CC: Lino River, Chair

Performing Arts Department

Saint Mary's College of CA