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TO: DFSCAL Undergraduate Programs Committee

FROM: Dr. Marcella Munson 
Chair, Department of Languages, Linguistics, and Comparative Literature

DATE: November 26, 2018

MEMORANDUM

This memorandum is written in support of the attached program change request to have the Foreign Language Exit Requirement (FLEX) removed from the BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts) degrees in the Department of Theatre and Dance.

The BFA in Theatre is a professional degree, not a traditionally academic one. The BFA is the standard degree sought by students seeking professional formation in the visual, creative, and/or performing arts.

Because the BFA in Theatre is a professional degree, it requires a minimum of 74 credits in discipline; it is intended to provide intensive professional training and development. In keeping with this goal of the degree, their most recent external academic program review strongly recommended that their BFA students take even *more* credits in discipline.

However, because almost all FAU undergraduates are held to a strict 120 credit-hour maximum, and because the Department of Theatre and Dance has not been allowed exemptions to this credit hour maximum, the only way the department will be able to add further disciplinary-specific coursework to the BFA is to reduce the credits assigned to the common core.

Given this situation, and given their strong desire to achieve external accreditation by their professional bodies in discipline, our department understands the need for the proposed change. We also deeply regret the administrative realities that force this action.