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Memorandum

To: Undergraduate Programs Committee
From: Rebecca Lautar, Department of Music
Re: 0-credit ensemble proposals
Date: October 21, 2019

The Department of Music is submitting a number of 0-credit MUN 1xxx ensemble courses. The justification for these proposals follow:

- The National Association of Schools of Music, music's accrediting body, requires music majors to enroll in a varied and comprehensive performance experience each semester while pursuing a music major degree.
- Music ensembles are currently 1-credit and repeatable. Most music majors enroll in at least two or three ensembles each semester, based on their developmental needs as well as the needs to completely staff ensembles. Students are assigned to a particular ensemble by the department's area heads through placement auditions each semester. It is possible a student may spend all their semesters in a particular ensemble during their entire tenure, or enroll in a variety of ensembles while pursuing the degree.
- The minimum number of ensemble credits required for any degree completion is 7-8 credits total, depending on the specific major.

Meeting the NASM standard of a varied and comprehensive experience EACH semester while making sure that ensemble assignments do not bring about excess credit surcharges is becoming a serious issue for our students.

The Department has researched many music programs in the state and nationally, and have found that many institutions offer 0-credit ensemble enrollment options for students who are assigned to multiple ensembles.

The Department proposes the 0-credit options for most of the departmental ensembles. These courses are to be used ONLY if a student is concurrently registered for one ensemble OR if the degree requirement has already been met, AND if the student does not need further upper division coursework for degree completion. The department has an established network of faculty and departmental advisors, who have created a comprehensive system of tracking student time-to-degree. All degree cohorts of students through all the music major requirements are being tracked through targeted music advising each semester. The Department can verify that the conditions for 0-credit enrollment options can be monitored judiciously, allowing students to meet all accreditation standards, credit limits, and degree requirements. All 0-credit courses are to be coded as departmental permission only.

There is state and national precedent for 0-credit ensemble options, as represented by the following institutions:

University of West Florida
Boston University
Fordham University
Drexel University
University of Iowa
Stephen. F Austin State University
Samford University
University of Alabama
Syracuse University

NW Oklahoma State
Minnesota State University
University of Nebraska
Tennessee Tech University
Ball State University
Florida State University
University of North Florida
University of Virginia College at Wise