

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

**ACADEMIC SENATE**

**ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

**REPORT TO**

**THE ACADEMIC SENATE**

**AP-032-234**

**Abbreviated Program Review for BA Music and BM Music**

**Academic Programs Committee**

**Date: 04/17/2024**

**Executive Committee  
Received and Forwarded**

**Date: 10/02/2024**

**Academic Senate**

**Date: 10/16/2024  
First Reading**

## BACKGROUND:

As part of the abbreviated program review for accredited programs, the Music Department conducted a self-study for the AY 2022-2023. It was followed by an external review conducted by Drs. Micheal Houlahan (Millersville University) and Brian Kai Chin (Seattle Pacific University) on Nov. 3-4, 2022, an internal review by Ms. Julie Shen (Library) and Dr. Wei Yu (FRL) on Dec. 5, 2023, and a meeting with Dean Camille Johnson (CLASS) on Feb. 19, 2024. Three documents were submitted: a department self-study report; an internal review report; and response from the Dean. The departmental self-study covered GI 2025, program quality, inclusive polytechnic identity, and the challenges and needs from the department to improve program quality, such as faculty, financial, and technological support from the university.

This review covers (1) B.A. in Music with two options (General/Music Industry Studies), (2) B.M. in Music with three options (Composition/Pedagogy (Pre-credential)/Performance) and one minor.

## RESOURCES CONSULTED:

Dr. Camille Johnson, Dean, CLASS

Dr. David Kopplin, Chair, Music Department

Dr. Jocelyn Chong, Coordinator, Assessment and Program Review

## DISCUSSION:

The internal review team identified many strengths of the department. The department offers a total of five options and one minor, provides abundant performance opportunities for students, emphasizes project-based learning and hands-on polytechnic experience, and integrates music technologies in their curriculum. The faculty of the department are committed to curriculum improvement, proactive interventions to reduce high DFW rates, improvement of student graduation rates, and raising external funds to support student success. The department is also relatively large compared with other Music departments in the CSU and has faculty members with expertise spanning diverse areas in music.

The review teams also identified challenges that the department faces. (1) The department is short on faculty resources for mentorship and assessment in project-based learning, as well as the planning, recruitment, coordination, rehearsal of large ensembles from the artistic and technical aspects of production. In general, the department is understaffed relative to its size, impacting its operational efficiency. (2) Continuing lack of financial support results in difficulties in maintaining and purchasing equipment/instrument/classrooms/technology upgrades, hinders the department's ability to obtain necessary faculty resources and teaching activities, and supports financially disadvantaged students. (3) Current department organization structure results in some faculty members bearing excessive workload. There are not enough faculty administrative roles (especially an associate chair) to address the workload issue and oversee the department's operations effectively.

The review team provided several recommendations. (1) Enhance university support and increase investment in faculty, including the provision of release time for faculty who lead large ensembles, actively engage in community outreach, and devote to assessment-related tasks, and the reevaluation of job description so sufficient time can be allocated to faculty members involved in recruitment activities. (2) Evaluate and restructure administrative roles and collaborate with the college advising center to alleviate faculty workload. (3) Improve assessment by updating the data collection process, improve the assessment rubric, and examine the assessment data to reduce DFW rates. (4) Increase university financial support (scholarships, etc.), expand student employment opportunities, and expand fundraising initiatives to support financially disadvantaged students and technology maintenance/upgrade.

The committee did not receive any additional comments on this submission. In the response to program review, Dean Johnson listed the top five actionable items: (1) Collaborate with Admissions to streamline and improve department admissions process. (2) Support faculty efforts to engage in outreach and recruitment opportunities. (3) Increase scholarship application rates among new and continuing students. (4) Address issues with instructional facilities and department/faculty office spaces. (5) Increase tenure-track and staff hiring.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Academic Programs Committee commends the Music Department on the successful operation of their BA and BM programs. The thorough and thoughtful reviews that were prepared highlight issues of critical importance at the department, college, and university level.