**Music Department**

**2011 Assessment Update**

**2010-2011 Actions**

Instrumental Methods Sequence & Literature Courses

Concerning the Instrumental Methods Sequence of courses for the Music Education majors and the Literature courses for Performance majors as discussed in the 2010 Assessment Report – the Department submitted the following as course changes, course eliminations, or course additions (all of which have been approved by the Course Change Committee and C&RC):

1. **Course Changes**

* MUS 240 – High Brass Methods (.25 units) is now Brass Teaching and Techniques (.5 units). It covers all of the brass instruments in one course. It also includes that portion of MUS 215 – Orchestration that deals with brass instruments, making the knowledge and understanding of brass orchestration concepts more applicable to the Music Education students.
* MUS 242 - High Woodwind Methods (.25 units) is now Woodwind Teaching and Techniques (.5 units). It covers all of the woodwind instruments in one course. It also includes that portion of MUS 215 – Orchestration that deals with woodwind instruments, making the knowledge and understanding of woodwind orchestration concepts more applicable to the Music Education students.
* MUS 244 - High Strings Methods (.25 units) is now String Teaching and Techniques (.5 units). It covers all of the stringed instruments in one course. It also includes that portion of MUS 215 – Orchestration that deals with stringed instruments, making the knowledge and understanding of string orchestration concepts more applicable to the Music Education students.
* MUS 246 Percussion Methods (.25 units) is now Percussion Teaching and Techniques (.5 units). It continues to cover all of the percussion instruments in one course but in more depth. It also includes that portion of MUS 215 – Orchestration that deals with percussion instruments, making the knowledge and understanding of percussion orchestration concepts more applicable to the Music Education students.

1. **Course Eliminations**

* MUS 215 – Orchestration (1 unit). The Department has decided to incorporate the elements of Orchestration within each of the Teaching and Techniques courses for the Music Education majors. For the Performance majors, the Department developed three .5-unit Literature courses to replace the Orchestration course.
* MUS 241 – Low Brass Methods (.25 units). The material from this course is now covered in MUS 240 – Brass Teaching and Techniques (.5 units).
* MUS 243 – Low Woodwind Methods (.25 units). The material from this course is now covered in MUS 242 – Woodwind Teaching and Techniques (.5 units).
* MUS 245 – Low String Methods (.25 units). The material from this course is now covered in MUS 244 – String Teaching and Techniques (.5 units).

1. **Course Additions**

* MUS 216 – Piano Literature (.5 units). This course is intended for performance majors in the area of piano. It fills the need for an in depth study of piano literature which cannot be met through once a week private lessons. Piano Performance majors will take this and one other literature course of their choosing.
* MUS 217 – Instrumental Literature (.5 units). This course is intended for performance majors in the area of instrumental (other than piano). It fills the need for an in depth study of instrumental literature which cannot be met through once a week private lessons. Instrumental Performance majors will take this and one other literature course of their choosing.
* MUS 218 – Choral Literature (.5 units). This course is intended for performance majors in the area of voice. It fills the need for an in depth study of choral literature which cannot be met through once a week private lessons. Vocal Performance majors will take this and one other literature course of their choosing.

Keyboard Skills Lab

The Department has not yet developed or implemented a new evaluation process for the Piano Proficiency as indicated in the 2010 Assessment Report. It was briefly discussed in Department Meeting, but other pressing matters to our attention away from this. We fully expect to return to this issue and have a newly designed Piano Proficiency evaluation process that will be in place by the end of the 2011-2012 school year.

Conclusion

The Department continues to consider ways to improve and streamline the Music Major curriculum. One of our latest efforts involves redesigning the Music Theory sequence, currently 4 semesters, to allow students coming to the major later than their first semester/first-year to begin the major without having to wait an entire year to begin in the fall. The Department believes this change has the potential of increasing the number of majors by bringing current students into the program, instead of relying completely on incoming first-years to choose Music as a major right away. There are many educational and curricular factors to consider in the redesign, and it likely will not be completed or implemented for some time.

The Department will undergo a Self-Study in 2011-2012 that coincides with our reaccreditation process through the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). Our review is currently scheduled for the spring semester of 2013.