Minutes of the Undergraduate Committee Meeting, 9/20/17

In attendance:

Brandon Craswell (chair)

Daniel Bolshoy (representing Milton Masciadri)

Emily Gertsch

Naomi Graber

Jaclyn Hartenberger

Marta Kelleher

Roy Legette

Reid Messich

Phil Smith

Martha Thomas

Jeremy Wheatley

**Agenda item #1:**

Vote to include new songwriting course proposed by Brett Bawcum as an upper division music elective for all degrees.

Resolved: Vote postponed until we are given proposal and syllabus.

**Agenda item #2:**

Vote to approve new guitar ensemble taught by Daniel Bolshoi and as required large ensemble for guitar students in all undergraduate degree programs.

Resolved: vote passes.

Notes:

* Students are currently using choir to fulfill this requirement. Some concern about taking male students away from choir, but those concerns are addressed by having students split the requirement, taking some semesters of choir and some semesters of guitar ensemble.
* This has already passed performance committee.

**Agenda item #3:**

Vote to approve MUSI 4010 (Music technology) as an elective option for the minor.

Resolved: vote passes, provided Peter Lane approves, with the amendment that minors must seek permission of the instructor so that majors (who are required to take the course) are given preference.

**Agenda item #4:**

Vote to approve MUSI 4060 (Music in the real world) as an elective option for minors

Resolved: Vote passes with the amendment that such students must seek permission of the instructor so that majors (who are required to take the course) are given preference.

Notes:

* Some concerns were raised regarding whether or not this course would be useful for minors, but it was noted that the course was broadening so that it will be taught for a broader audience, and will be limited to undergraduates.

**Agenda item #5:**

Vote on policy proposal that MUSI 4000/6000 (Directed independent study) ceased to be used for courses not yet approved by Curriculum systems.

Resolved: New numbers will be created for “try out” courses, similar to the “topic” number that is already in use in Musicology/Ethnomusicology, and is currently proposed for theory. Once those numbers are officially proposed, we’ll revisit the issue.

Notes:

* Current practices allow courses to be taught without proper evaluation and approval of the university.
* Current practices make transcripts difficult to interpret, both for the graduation office and for other schools to properly evaluate a student’s curriculum.

Other items discussed

**Proposed changes in the Music Education degree**

Rebecca Atkins presented some ideas from the education area to keep the degree at 127 credit hours. These changes include

* The method course requirement changed from 9 courses to 6:  Students will be placed in “tracks” based on professional interest and choose courses in consultation with a faculty adviser. (woodwind, brass, strings, voice, guitar, orchestration, voice class, vocal pedagogy, percussion etc..)
* New curriculum no longer requires a secondary instrument: Adjustments need to be made for applied pianists who are vocal music education majors who no longer take voice. In place of class piano they continue to take Voice I, II, III, and IV.

It was also noted that the College of Education no longer requires Music 3050 -Music for Early Childhood Education, so the area was considering revising the course to attract a broader audience.

The office needs to examine these changes in the context of the rest of the bulletin and schedule, so no vote was taken. Given the university schedule, these issues need to be resolved by November at the latest. Martha also advised further thought on the matter of reforming 3050, with the possibility of changing the course number.

**The number of semesters of lessons required for music education students**

As of changes to the curriculum last year, music education students are required to take 6 semesters of private lessons. Previously, they had been required to take 7. Concern was expressed regarding the allocation of scholarship money, as instructors would prefer to fund only students who participate in their studios for all four years. Several solutions were proposed:

* Changing the contract students sign to require 7 semesters of lessons
  + This might cause music education students to exceed the limit on credit hours.
  + This might cause students to drop the degree
* Base loads on scholarships allocated rather than how many students are taking lessons in any given semester.
* Explore ways to compensate studios who are funding students who are not taking lessons, in consultation with Dale.