

University Senate Committee on Academic Organization and Structure

Meeting: Email discussion initiated February 9th, 2006 with a two week response requested.

Topic: Proposal to suspend the BFA in Acting program and the BFA in Design Technology.

Committee Members: Ernie Bailey (chair), Tom Garrity, JW Yates, Melissa Newman, Bob Houtz, James Hertog, Chris Frost, Monica Hobson, Brian Jackson and Sam Jasper.

The chair of the Department of Theater, Nelson Fields, submitted a proposal to suspend two programs under the BFA in Theater, namely the concentration in acting and the concentration in design technology. Within the next 5 years, the faculty plan to make a decision with regard to permanent deletion of the programs.

As stated in the proposal, the change is requested because the program does not meet the needs of the students nor of the industry it serves. In the request for a change, Professor Fields indicated that the faculty in Theater plan to modify the BA program in order to address the issues. Meanwhile, students currently enrolled in the program will be allowed to complete the program as currently constituted. While this appears to be a major change, the proposal clearly has full support of the faculty in the department, the undergraduate curriculum committee of the college and of the dean.

The members of the AOS committee recommend approval of this proposal.



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

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October 6, 2005

MEMO

To: Bob Shay, Dean of Fine Arts
From: Nelson Fields, Chair, Department of Theatre

RE: Department of Theatre Curriculum Changes

Attached are requests for changes to undergraduate programs in the Department of Theatre. The faculty agreed to these changes at the September 28th Faculty Meeting. A summary of those changes and explanation follows.

- **Suspension of the BFA program in Acting and Design/Technology** – We are requesting these programs be suspended for the time being until the faculty can better re-evaluate the need for them. The programs as written do not fulfill the requirements of a true BFA program. Recent conversations at conferences such as Southeastern Theatre Conference and United States Institute for Theatre Technology indicates faculty members in graduate programs are less interested in students with a BFA preferring a student with a BA degree. We have felt for some time the BFA programs are not working and want to use this time to re-write the BA curriculum and make a final decision as to the dispensation of the BFA programs.
- **Change in BA Program** – This change in the Practicum requirement will allow students more flexibility in working on productions that are required as the co-curricular component of the degree. This change simply makes the Practicum requirement 5 hours of any Practicum rather than the current requirement of dictating specific Practicums.



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY


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January 24, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate Council

FROM: Robert Shay, Dean 

RE: Proposed Suspension of B.F.A. Degrees in Theatre

The Curriculum Committee of the College of Fine Arts met and approved the suspension of the B.F.A. in Theatre, Concentration in Acting and the B.F.A. in Theatre, Concentration in Design/Technology at their October 21, 2005 meeting. The Undergraduate Council also approved the suspension of these programs at their meeting on December 13, 2005.

The Theatre Department and the College of Fine Arts plan to make a final decision with regard to the permanent deletion of these programs within the next five years.

Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

UNIVERSITY SENATE REVIEW AND CONSULTATION SUMMARY SHEET

Proposal Title: *Suspension of BFA Programs in Theatre*
Name/email/phone for proposal contact: *Nelson Fields – nelson.fields@uky.edu – 257-3297*

Instruction: To facilitate the processing of this proposal please identify the groups or individuals reviewing the proposal, identify a contact person for each entry, provide the consequences of the review (specifically, approval, rejection, no decision and vote outcome, if any) and please attach a copy of any report or memorandum developed with comments on this proposal.

Reviewed by: (Chairs, Directors, Faculty Groups, Faculty Councils, Committees, etc)	Contact person Name (phone/email)	Consequences of Review:	Date of Proposal Review	Review Summary Attached? (yes or no)
Theatre Faculty	Nelson Fields nelson.fields@uky.edu 257-3297	Accepted	9/8/2005	Yes, Memo dated 1/23/2006
College of Fine Arts Curriculum Committee	Alice Christ, investigator 257-2303	Accepted	10/21/05	Yes, memo dated 1/24/06
Undergraduate Council	Ruth Beattie, investigator 257-7647	Accepted	12/13/05	No



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

January 23, 2006

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MEMO

To: Theatre Faculty

From: Nelson Fields
Chair, Department of Theatre

In order to expedite the suspension of the BFA program we agreed to last semester, I have been asked to provide the Senate Council with a signed document stating that all members of the Theatre Faculty agreed to this proposal. Therefore, I am asking each of you to sign the following statement.

As a member of the Theatre faculty, I have agreed to the suspension of the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), both concentrations – Acting and Design/Technology, until such time as we can make a decision to eliminate or restore them with a revised curriculum.

Tony Hardin

Signature (Tony Hardin)

Nelson Fields

Signature (Nelson Fields)

Bob Haven

Signature (Bob Haven)

Russell Henderson

Signature (Russell Henderson)

Sabbatical Spring 2006

Nancy Jones

Signature (Nancy Jones)

John Holloway

Signature (John Holloway)

Andrew Kimbrough

Signature (Andrew Kimbrough)

Geri Maschio

Signature (Geri Maschio)

Rhoda-Gale Pollack

Signature (Rhoda-Gale Pollack)

David Steinmetz

Signature (David Steinmetz)

SUSPENSION/DELETION OF A PROGRAM

College Fine Arts Date 9/13/05

Department (Unit) Theatre MAJOR CODE _____

Name of Program BFA Design Concentration CIP B50.0501

Nature of action (mark one) Suspension Deletion

Reason for suspension/deletion

This program is not living up to its potential. Number of students enrolled and completing the program is not justifying faculty requirements.

What provisions are being made for students already in the program?

They will be able to complete all coursework as courses will be retained until a final decision is made as to the program's deletion.

Will another degree program replace the one suspended or deleted? Yes No
If yes, please describe the new program.

Will courses connected with the program also be deleted? Yes No
If yes, forms for dropping a course or courses should be attached.

Date at which suspension/deletion will take effect. Spring 2006

Signatures of Approval

Nelson Field 9.23.05
Department Chair Date

[Signature] 10/24/05
College Dean Date

[Signature] 12-13-05
Undergraduate Council Date

Graduate Council Date

Academic Council for Medical Center Date

Senate Council Date