

Minutes of the Academic Faculty Meeting
Music Department / UNC-Chapel Hill
April 16, 2008 / Hill 207, Noon-1:00 p.m.

Present: Evan Bonds (Chair), David Garcia, Annegret Fauser, Jon Finson, Anne MacNeil, Severine Neff, Phil Vandermeer, Hana Vlhová, Felix Wörner

1) Admissions update. Severine Neff, Director of Graduate Admissions, had earlier distributed the list of incoming graduates students for Fall 08; the list of five included three of the applicants ranked in the top five by the Graduate Admissions and Financial Aid Committee. The group thanked Severine Neff and the members of the committee for their work throughout the year.

2) Faculty-Student Committee (Graduate Program) update. Jon Finson reported on the recent meeting of the Committee:

(a) Language requirements. The revisions discussed at the last meeting were accepted without change. One last round of in-house language exams will be offered in Fall 08. EB will see that the new guidelines are uploaded to the Graduate Handbook online. The new guidelines will apply to all students entering the program from Fall 07 onward.

(b) Discussion of public dissertation defenses. At least some graduate students have expressed an interest in holding public dissertation defenses (the final Ph.D. exam). Public defenses are already permitted under the guidelines of the graduate school. It was agreed in today's meeting that closed meetings would remain the default value, and that a student's petition for a public defense would require the unanimous consent of the dissertation committee. We do nevertheless need to draw up specific guidelines for public defenses, addressing such issues as the definition of public (anyone?), whether questions will be permitted from the floor, and a provision for private deliberations of the committee. The FSC will consider the question in Fall 08 and open a dialogue between faculty and students on the issue.

3) Guidelines for honors sequence in MUSC 132H-232H. The group discussed various provisions in the proposed guidelines for student access to the honors sections of MUSC 132 and 232. Several changes were suggested and approved. Severine Neff will revise the document and distribute for further discussion and review by email.

4) Jazz curriculum proposal. The group discussed the proposal put forward at the full faculty meeting on April 9. Most of the discussion centered whether or not to allow MUSC 26x (the as-yet-unnumbered reformulation of Jazz Composition and Arranging) to count toward the fourth-semester theory elective. The general view was that this was acceptable, but that some revision of the title of the course (e.g., "Advanced Jazz Theory and Arranging") might help address

concerns about the apparent discrepancy between standard composition and arranging (orchestration) courses, which do not fulfill fourth-semester theory requirements, and a Jazz Composition and Arranging courses, which would.

5) Program review. As announced at the last full faculty meeting, we need to begin thinking about how we want to structure the upcoming program review. Orientation sessions for those most directly involved in coordinating and writing the report will take place around the middle of Fall 08.

The general sentiment was that a committee of four tenured faculty (two academic, two applied) would be the best arrangement for coordinating this work. It was proposed that the group should include at least two full professors (one from each division). Those on this committee should be available to work continuously through the period from Fall 08 through the end of Fall 09, i.e., three full semesters. The academic and applied divisions will need to coordinate closely on the mechanism by which faculty can provide input and feedback at various stages of the preparation of this report. Further discussions on the review will resume in early Fall 08.

6) Position requests. Several faculty expressed the desire to seek an appointment for a scholar with expertise in Baroque music and performance practice. Time prevented a fuller discussion of this proposal, but Anne MacNeil offered to draw up a document that could be discussed informally and via email.

April 18, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

Felix Wörner