

NASM SELF-STUDY

Preface

The Utah State Music Department is in a relatively good position financially and politically. We are funding at a level that allows us to operate at a high standard; we have very good faculty who are dedicated and motivated; our students are really good, nice, teachable young people – perhaps not the strongest performers in the country but they have a good work ethic and usually do their best.

Building/facilities

The Chase Fine Arts Center (FAC) is just over 45 years old. The building is well maintained but seriously lacking in lighting and sound systems. We have rehearsal rooms, class rooms and practice rooms along with faculty staff offices. We have just outgrown the building.

We have a new performance hall that was open in 2006 – one donor gave a majority of the \$14,000,000 needed to build it. It is a lovely little hall that seats 421.

In the summer of 2013 we will take possession of an LDS church building affectionately known as the “Golden Toaster” (because of its original shape and color). That will give us several office spaces, rehearsal room, organ lab and two large classrooms/recital spaces. The building is about 45 years old and is not up to current building codes. We will have to deal with those issues before taking possession. But it will be a great help with our space problems.

There is the hope that we’ll be able to build a new fine arts building on the land where the “Toaster” sits. But that will require about \$30,000,000 in fundraising before the State of Utah Legislature would fund a matching amount or up to twice what we raise. This is a new project that has only been in the works for about a year.

The biggest challenge we have with the halls is that we are required to pay fees for use of the halls – fees for the personnel who run the venues including sound, lights, front-of-house and box office. This is a major flash point for the faculty as the fees charged virtually eliminate any possibility of making money on special events or performances.

Curriculum

As you’ll see from the Self-Study, we have a good curriculum that was envisioned last year to reduce the number of credits to 120 other than for our BM Education degrees and the Bachelor of Science Music Therapy Degree.

At least three years ago, the Music Department eliminated the Bachelor of Arts in Music Therapy, the Certificate in Organ, Piano, and Guitar, and the Diploma in Organ/Church Music, Piano, and Guitar. However, the appropriate paperwork was never done to alert NASM to these changes and only the Certificate and Diploma programs have been eliminated from the university listings. We have started the processes necessary to eliminate the BA in Music Therapy from the USU system and from NASM roles. We

have had no students in this program for several years. We will notify NASM of the elimination of the BA in Music Therapy, Certificate and Diploma programs. We are not including those programs in the Self-Study as we are not seeking renewal.

We are exploring expanding our Master of Music degree, which is only for Piano/Piano Pedagogy, to include Conducting, Performance and Musicology. We hope we can have these programs through the Curriculum Committees and the Education Policy Committee (EPC) within the next three semesters. We will the appropriate NASM communications as soon as it is appropriate.

We are also exploring reinstating the Bachelor of Arts in Music Degree. We are getting many requests from students for programs in music business, commercial music and arranging/composition in contemporary styles (more pop oriented) and music production. We have faculty who are very interested in these areas. We are developing these programs for submission to the curriculum committees and EPC. We would like to have the new programs ready to offer within the next two years.

Faculty

We have been fortunate to have been given two new tenure track faculty positions in the last two years. We hired an outstanding professor of trumpet last year and are currently doing a search for a second band director – Director of Marching and Athletic Bands. The fact that we are given these positions speaks to the strong support we have from the Dean, Provost and President.

The faculty here has been carrying very heavy workloads for the past several years. This was brought on by the budget cuts several years ago and the situation is just not turning around. We are doing everything we can to eliminate courses that are not needed/required in the major or are General Education courses. We have streamlined the curriculum to eliminate course duplication or redundancy. We are hiring new faculty into 3/3 loads and gradually change other loads so faculty are not so heavily burdened.

Special Events

The Music Department is involved with many projects and programs outside the curriculum that helps the university and city. We produce the major Independence Day extravaganza called Freedom Fire. The event is held in the football stadium on July 3rd and is complete with large orchestra and choir, guest artists, 400 town's people performing and fireworks.

We produce an event called Trade Secrets that is a major effort to help junior high school teachers (band, chorus and orchestra) with their teaching skills. We anticipate having more than 180 participants this year.

We are, like most music departments, the "go-to" place when the President or Provost or Deans need help with their special events. This ranges from intimate dinners where we provide a student harp player to large alumni event where we produce a whole show for them. We try to be a major player in the life of the university.

Funding

For the more part we are doing OK in most funding areas. We still need to find funding for at least two more faculty positions (Music Theory and Choral Music/Ed). But while we have to be very careful with our funding, we are getting our fair share of what the university has to divide up between departments. We are doing rather well with our fundraising efforts – an ongoing challenge. The department total budget (all funds available including salaries but not fundraising) for 2010-11 was 1,990,024. Our total budget for 2012-13 is \$2,143,864. We are about keeping up with inflation.

Challenges

We need to improve/fix/upgrade things in the following areas:

- Web page and electronic media presence – update and keep changing content
- Marketing– locally and regionally we don't have a good marketing plan
- Fundraising – we need expand the donor base...drastically
- Recruiting – we don't have a good recruiting plan that focuses on high quality students
- Regional campuses – we need to expand what we are doing to support our regional campuses
- We need to update and expand our student handbooks (not in general use for a few years)
- Build strong international connections with foreign universities to match the programs in the Huntsman Business School, College of Agriculture and College of Education
- Take a more active role in building and strengthening music programs in the state

We have good faculty, good students, reasonable facilities and are developing a great curriculum. We are headed in the right direction to be a major leader in arts education in the Western United States.