

PROPOSAL: Create the School of Theatre and Dance

Background

The Faculty Senate Executive Board has approved the creation of the School of Theatre and Dance in the College of Fine Arts.

The COVID-impacted budget cut required that we eliminate a production staff position in dance, reduce the FTE of the remaining staff in both theatre and dance, eliminate the chair of dance position, and accept the accelerated retirement of two dance faculty on half-time, transitional retirement. With that reality, then, came a deeper conversation about balancing the units within the College of Fine Arts as SRM launches. In this case the School of Theatre and Dance will be 290+. This is in line with the 355 grad/ undergrads of the Frostic School of Art and the 430 grad/ undergrads of the School of Music (as of census Fall 2020). These programs naturally fit together largely via the co-curricular experiences in live production and arts and studio management. We do acknowledge the challenge before us as we go about merging two programs, each nationally recognized, with robust enroll and with some of the highest retention rates in the university will be maintaining the integrity and success of the work of each unit under the umbrella of the new school.

Recommended Action

Create the School of Theatre and Dance.