

Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts
Fall Faculty Meeting
via Zoom Video Conference
Friday, October 23, 2020, 11:30-1:00 p.m.

Quorum

- A quorum of five or more voting members from each academic unit was established based on the participants list in Zoom.

Greeting and Approval of Minutes

- Dean O'Connor welcomed and thanked everyone for their dedication during the last few months and acknowledged the sacrifices that faculty made to adapt to the current situation.
- Christina Kirk moved to approve the minutes from the Spring Faculty Meeting and Jamie Reimer seconded. The motion carried and the minutes from 04-03-20 were approved as written.

Congratulations

- Congratulations to our newest Hixson-Lied Professor, Pete Eklund!

Student Resources and Connections

- Jackie Mattingly reviewed aspects of MyPlan and how to make referrals for students. They can be directed to resources for all types of support. Well-being coaches are available, and appointments can be made online.

New Proposal

- A proposal for a new BFA in Acting was presented to the faculty for their approval. The proposal was initiated by the Johnny Carson School of Theatre & Film and approved by the College Curriculum Committee.
 - If the proposal is approved by the college faculty, it will be sent to the EVC office for review, to the Academic Planning Committee for approval, then the Board of Regents, and eventually the Coordinating Commission on Postsecondary Education in NE for final approval.
 - The acting faculty suggested an amendment to the proposal that was approved by the CCC to rename Theatre 353 to Voice III for 3cr and Theatre 354 to Voice Seminar for 2cr.
 - Peter Lefferts moved to approve the amendment and Kirk seconded. The amendment was adopted.
 - Summary of discussion on the amended proposal:
 - It was clarified that the proposed BFA will eventually replace the existing BA in Theatre with a Performance option.
 - The BA is considered a generalist degree as opposed to a BFA, which is a professionally focused degree and will attract more students that want to pursue acting as a profession.
 - The motion carried and the proposal was approved as amended.

Dean's Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion

- Last year HLCFPA completed a strategic action plan. The guidance coming from our units helped shape it. The Dean will be visiting with each unit to resume the discussion.
 - The college will be fully supporting diversity and inclusion. We can be a healing and unifying force for peace and understanding.
 - The Dean has convened an ad hoc Taskforce on Diversity and Inclusion that will develop a College-wide plan. They will be canvassing and holding meetings with faculty and students. The members are Sandra Williams, Christopher Irvin, Greg Simon, Hye-Won Hwang, Rafael Untalan, Jinku Kim, and Katie Anania, Daniel Ikpeama, and Brannon Evans.

Budget Update

- The Dean reviewed the University and College budget situation. The University is facing a \$38-million budget shortfall with \$1.2-million in reductions required of our college. To determine the process, the Dean consulted with the College Executive Committee and the Directors. Each director came forward with proposals which were reviewed and discussed with the Dean and then forwarded to the EVC office. The APC has our proposal and will advise the Chancellor of their recommendations for his approval. Phase 1 is currently being implemented. It consists of reductions in non-personnel operations, funding for travel and projects, reducing the adjunct pool, and not filling some of the open faculty positions. The Dean thanked the Directors for their hard work during the process.
 - Phase 2 will reduce some GTA funding and eliminate anticipated vacant faculty lines. The Dance Program was saved through private philanthropy and a re-appropriation of the Hixson-Lied Endowment.
- The Dean took questions.
 - Endowment funds can pay for GTA stipends and benefits to the extent possible.
 - Undergraduate enrollment generates revenue. The College discounts about 25% of its undergraduate revenue and most all of its graduate revenue.
 - Tuition is put into our revenue stream no matter how it is paid, whether by student, endowments, special funding, or federal and state aid.
 - A question was raised regarding cutting administrative salaries.
 - This was not within the menu of choices presented to the Colleges.
 - Many research and creative activities have been put on hold due to the virus. The Dean is seeking additional funding to help faculty in this area once the crisis lifts.

Reminder

- Over the next few weeks, the political climate will change and not everyone thinks in the same way. We need to be respectful of differences in opinions. The students are looking up to us.

Meeting adjourned