

Approved  
Maria T. Allison  
8/13/09

**Memorandum**

Date: June 8, 2009

To: Maria Allison, University Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate College

From: Kwang-Wu Kim, Dean and Director, Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts

(KWK)

Re: Disestablishment of MM in Music Education Concentrations in Choral Music, Instrumental Music, Jazz Studies and General Music

The School of Music is recommending the disestablishment of the Master of Music in Music Education concentrations in Choral Music, Instrumental Music, Jazz Studies and General Music within the School of Music effective for the spring semester 2010. All changes have been reviewed and approved by the Herberger College of the Arts Curriculum Committee. I support the disestablishment of these concentrations and the improvements proposed for the Master of Music in Music Education as recommended by the School of Music.

**Rationale:**

The School of Music offers the Master of Music in Music Education degree (FAMUSEDMM). Currently, 33 students are housed in this degree plan.

In 1995, the School of Music established concentrations in Choral Music, Instrumental Music and General Music. No plan codes were ever established for these concentrations, therefore we have had these concentrations on the books for 14 years without enrolling any students in these separate concentrations. A Jazz Studies concentration was established separately and a plan code of FAJAZZMM was created. The Jazz Studies concentration was on the Provost's Memo dated Feb. 10, 2009 of programs selected for disestablishment.

These concentrations reflect antiquated music education job descriptions and do not accurately reflect current teaching assignments. They disenfranchise certain groups, including string music educators ("instrumental" is a title usually associated with band), those whose primary teaching assignment is a non-traditional ensemble (e.g., those teaching guitar, mariachi, piano, digital music courses) and community music educators. Eliminating these concentrations allows us to be responsive to the need for increased flexibility in music education and musicianship coursework.

**Impact:**

The Master of Music in Music Education (FAMUSEDMM) will continue as established. All music education students will continue to be enrolled in this degree program. All coursework for this degree will continue to be offered and students may choose to

focus their studies in choral, general, jazz or instrumental. Some changes will be proposed to the existing MM in Music Education (FAMUSEDMM) program to make the curriculum more flexible and responsive to the needs of today's music educator.

The current degree was last revised in 1988 and reflects NASM and other standards of the time. In 1994, approval was received to rename the major as "Music Education".

The proposed changes reflect:

- Changes to the NASM recommendations since 1988.
- Changes to expectations of the ASU Graduate College (formalizes their recommendation of several years ago that there be at least one credit in the degree for the portfolio that marks the capstone project of the program).
- Responsiveness to the need for increased flexibility in music education course work
- Responsiveness to the need for increased flexibility in musicianship course work. For example, some music educators teach AP Music Theory or IB Music Theory courses in their schools, and they would like to emphasize theory in the musicianship component of the degree. Others teach world music ensembles and/or music appreciation-type courses, and would like to emphasize ethnomusicology and/or music history in their degree programs. Still others have begun composition courses or composition lessons, including digital music composition, in their schools, and would like to emphasize composition in their degree programs.

We see no major impact resulting from the disestablishment of these degree concentrations. Since no plan codes were established for three of them, we have no students to move to a different plan code. The two students remaining in the Jazz Studies concentration (FAJAZZMM) program will be allowed to complete their studies. Applications are no longer being accepted into this concentration, rather students are being advised to apply to the MM in Music Education (FAMUSEDMM) plan.

We anticipate a small increase in student enrollment as some students who would not have previously been interested in the segregated concentrations will now see the Master of Music in Music Education as a viable program. Time-to-degree completion should also improve as there will be more flexibility in coursework that students are required to take.