

FACULTY AGENDA ITEM

Date: **4/8**

Submitted by: Kelly Huff – Music - 1511

SUBJECT: *Bachelor of Musical Arts*

Description: *Short overview of the proposal*

The program leading to the Bachelor of Musical Arts degree is designed for students planning to pursue a diverse array of professional careers in music. The B.M.A. is a flexible and personalized degree that requires a complementary minor outside of music. With the help of the academic advisor, the student also selects a track of music electives that form an emphasis beyond the core music requirements.

Students pursuing this degree must complete the General Education requirements as listed in this catalog (with the addition of a correlate requirement in the Social Sciences of HI 105 Intro to World Music and Its History) and the Music and Minor requirements detailed in the catalog.

Rationale: During the 2016-2017 academic year, the Department of Music identified the need to explore solutions for students in the B.A. in Music program, as there has been a history of low achievement by those enrolled in the degree. The primary question posed to the faculty was whether we should consider developing program alternatives to better meet the needs of students whose interests fall outside the two professional degrees (the Bachelor of Music degree with a Major in Music Performance and Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education). The faculty affirmed the curriculum committee's goal to develop options that would provide the student with the sense of curricular rigor and structure found in the B.M. degrees but leave room for individualized flexibility.

The ideal solution is to add the Bachelor of Musical Arts to the department's programs. It is a professional degree that requires the same performance-based assessments as the Bachelor of Music degrees but is more interdisciplinary in scope. Beyond the core coursework in music, the B.M.A. requires (1) a complementary minor outside of the department and (2) a student-selected area of emphasis within music. It is especially attractive for those who intend to pursue graduate study in fields such as music theory, composition, music history, jazz, or music therapy.

Offering the B.M.A. at Washburn would distinguish us among our regional peers: the degree is not offered at any schools in Kansas. The closest institutions that offer the B.M.A. are University of South Dakota, Oklahoma Baptist University, and University of Oklahoma. It is a beautifully-customizable option for smaller departments such as ours. Washburn could offer a student a B.M.A. with a combination emphasis such as music history & theory, for instance, without duplicating the B.M. or B.A. degrees in Music

History or Music Theory offered by the University of Kansas. Furthermore, a student could plan a unique emphasis, such as conducting; an undergraduate degree in conducting is not available at any school in Kansas. A B.M.A. with a conducting emphasis would prepare a student to enter graduate study in choral or instrumental conducting.

Financial Implications: Little to no financial cost for startup; the degree can be offered using existing courses and faculty resources. However, if enrollment in the program increases beyond the capacity of the current faculty, addition of a faculty line may be necessary to expand upper-division elective offerings.

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2019

Request for Action: *Approval by AAC /FS/Gen Fac*

Approved by: *AAC on date*

Faculty Senate on date

Attachments Yes No