

## **Musical Theatre Program – New Visiting Faculty Member (Michael Barnhart)**

**0 Recommendation of immediate availability of resources in support of the proposal.**

**0 Recommendation for proposal to be held in abeyance.**

### **Comments and/or suggestions:**

The BFA with a concentration in Musical Theatre is one of the College of Arts and Sciences more successful new degree programs. When initially proposed and recommended by the University Faculty Senate, the Fine, Digital, and Performing Arts Department indicated that as the program grew and enrollment increased there would be a need to add a new, tenure-track faculty line. Until now the program has relied heavily upon the use of adjunct faculty, and, with the current enrollment in the program, a strong case has been made that there is no room for additional growth without the addition of the proposed tenure-track position. The addition of the full-service faculty member will allow for more majors via more course offerings and will ensure the structural sustainability of the program; additionally, the national accreditation of the program will be in reach once the program has three full-time faculty, as accreditation bodies require a certain ratio of majors to full-service faculty members; and, lastly, students currently enrolled in the program have proven themselves to be of high quality, with high retention and completion numbers. These students and their annual productions on the stages of the Vern Riffe Center are like leavening agents on our campus. We need more of these students and their contributions to campus life, and the expansion of this program would allow for such growth. I recommend immediate use of resources in support of the proposal.

I appreciate this proposal and the need to increase full-service faculty staffing in this program area in order to offer a stable program and to, ideally, expand it for the future. Given that the budget development process has completed for this fiscal year, however, I am uncertain about the possibility of funding it for fall of 2016. I believe we should take the opportunity to build on this proposal and include it in the budget planning for the 2017 academic year. If the Provost is able to find funds for a full-time temporary for fall or spring or a visiting faculty for the year, then I would be in support of that.

The proposal itself does a good job of showing its value in that the promised growth in majors would offset the costs. Strengthening the program would also provide the necessary stability for healthy growth. However, the timeline included (i.e. hiring a Visiting Faculty in Fall 2016) does not seem feasible given state hiring laws.

The musical theatre program is meeting a need in this region. I believe the approach of a visiting faculty for AY2016-17 is supportable, and with adequate enrollment as anticipated, I support the funding for this concentration for fall 2017.

The budget provided does not give a very clear picture of the revenues and expenses for the program and its expansion. It is difficult to determine whether increased enrollment and revenue will support the salary of a full-time faculty and I suggest we ask for a budget clarification.