WSU Five-Year Program Review: Music Area

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Thank you for the opportunity to review the music area at Weber State University.

Overall, we feel this is an excellent program in which students benefit from small classUniversi879.9

It appears that faculty members are highly qualified. There is a need to more specifically define the role of adjunct faculty within the music area. What types of interactions are fostered between full-time and adjunct faculty? Is funding for special projects (e.g. technology, travel, professional development) available to all faculty members? What programs are available for the purposes of acknowledging and incentivizing adjunct faculty?

Although the technology facilities are outstanding, the multimedia specialist and some of the students expressed interest in transitioning to more portable technologies in addition to, or instead of, the traditional media lab. For instance, a common software package could be required and used for multiple courses. Also, we noticed students sitting on the floor in the hall; they might benefit from lab/lounge arrangements.

A variety of scenarios were mentioned for additional administrative support. We suggest at least the addition of an associate chair from a performing area (music, theatre, or dance) different from the chair.

The relationship between the Browning Center and the music area seemed curious to us. Why is the music area required to rent space from the Browning Center? Could these important performance lab spaces at least be made available to the students during the day when not in use for performances or setup? Students need to hear how they sound in a recital hall and gain staging experience. These observations came from both our tour of the facilities and from our conversation with the students.

Collaborations with theatre and dance areas, as noted in the self-study, already take place and have been well-received. Partnerships with other university departments, for instance the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program and the University Council for Teacher Education, could also be mentioned and nurtured. In addition, we recommend a greater programming synergy with the Center for Cultural Affairs; at the very least, a music faculty member should be included on that committee.

Overall, this is a strong comprehensive music program. Recommendations for the previous program review have been implemented