



CENTRAL OREGON
community college

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Dear Michael and Music Faculty,

Thank you for taking part in this inaugural year of the Department & Program Review (DPR). The focus of the DPR redesign was to simplify the compilation process, to highlight successes and voice critical needs, and to connect the College plan to a department or program's vision. Your engagement in this process is important, and we applaud the time and effort you spent reflecting on your program and analyzing the work you are doing.

Strengths of your program

Though the pandemic posed a great challenge to your program, it brought some positive changes as well – your faculty have come out of the pandemic closures with new tools and practices, such as livestreaming concerts, which represent not just recovery but enhancement of the program.

Another set of kudos goes to your strong community presence and partnerships. In particular, your partnership with non-credit to offer the Redmond Community Chorus and your partnership with the Foundation to offer participation in music ensembles tuition-free to those in financial need demonstrate your community-centered and student-centered focus. In addition, your ensembles in general are a successful community enrichment action that supports our Strategic Plan goal of Community Engagement.

Finally, we commend you on your completion of an initial review and revision of student learning outcomes, and encourage you to work with the director of assessment and curriculum as you continue to develop and refine those.

Challenges of your program

We know that the successes highlighted above did not come without challenges and that, like many disciplines on campus, the pandemic significantly impacted student enrollment and engagement. However, we also note that Music is unique in the way that it centers and celebrates in-person performances, so the losses from the pandemic are even more keenly felt. We encourage you to continue to monitor enrollment trends in specific courses as your report makes it clear that enrollment is starting to bounce back toward pre-pandemic levels. We are optimistic that analyzing courses and sections that enroll well will provide insight into where student interest in Music will remain strong in the near term.

We also encourage you to continue to work with Marketing and Public Relations (MPR) staff to highlight the unique and exciting learning and performance opportunities in Music, including those in Music Technology.

MPR's new digital content specialist, Rosie Day, seems well positioned to create high-quality, engaging video from the high-quality, engaging courses offered in your discipline that can then be shared widely through COCC's social media networks. As Jenn Kovitz made clear in our DPR response meeting, Rosie will likely have more capacity to produce video content highlighting Music in the upcoming academic year.

Goals and needed resources

Your report provided three goals for the next five years, and we have the following responses and suggestions to make:

Goal 1: More music classes on the branch campuses (and specifically dedicated teachers from those communities to teach on the branch campuses)

While we may be reaching a new "normal" in enrollment figures, there is significant potential to expand interest by offering classes on our branch campuses, as you note. Thank you for the commitment you have already made to staffing classes at the branch campuses, and we encourage you to continue to seek part-time faculty who live in Madras, Prineville, and Redmond who are qualified and eager to offer these courses. Please work with your dean to get Music listed on the employment opportunities page that we have developed specifically for branch campuses (<https://www.cocc.edu/departments/human-resources/employment/part-time-faculty-hiring.aspx>) While we continue to pilot our low-enrollment program (for the coming year), even smaller class sizes can help build long-term interest. At some point, we will need to return to previously established minimums, but offering classes there now could attract more students and diversify our music class demographics.

Goal 2: COCC presence (specifically high-level administration) in the ongoing discussion regarding and arts center in Central Oregon

The development of additional performance venues in Central Oregon is even more pressing a concern given the news that Bend Senior High School (BSH) will be closing its auditorium for remodeling over the next few years. We agree that finding an adequate replacement venue is critical. Your goal to have COCC leadership take part in supporting an arts center in Central Oregon is important for the future of the symphony, in particular, given its popularity and ability to fill the 1400-seat BSH space. Doing this also helps the College achieve its mission of engaging our communities. This arts center would serve as a hub for cultural and artistic activities, benefiting not only our students but the broader community. Practical first steps to meet this goal might include having the instructional dean over Music join the discussions in order to serve as a liaison between College leadership and the organizers of the effort. We agree that involvement in the efforts is of mutual benefit to the College and community.

Remodel of the Pinckney Center for the Arts

The remodel of Pinckney Hall should be included in discussions related to facilities master planning. Continue to work with your instructional dean to convey the level of urgency of this remodel and potential plans regarding coursework and programs. Discuss with her the connection of this work to the College's strategic plan and goals, so that decisions made clearly align with broader institutional efforts. Ensuring that Pinckney Hall is updated to meet current and future needs will enhance our ability to deliver high-quality education and accommodate various program requirements effectively.

Finally, thank you for sharing your concern over the ongoing encroachments on space in Wille Hall, particularly the need for additional storage for non-music-related items. Your instructional dean and the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) have already begun conversations with others about this. Addressing these space constraints is crucial to maintaining an efficient and organized environment for all activities conducted in Wille Hall.

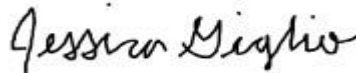
Thank you for your ongoing dedication to student readiness. Together, we can build on our achievements, address the challenges ahead, and meet the evolving needs of our students.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please reach out. We look forward to working collaboratively to enhance the quality and impact of the Music program.

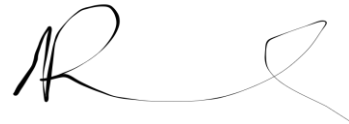
Sincerely yours,



Annemarie E. Hamlin
Vice President of Academic Affairs



Jessica Giglio
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Nick Recktenwald
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