

MUSIC DEPARTMENT CLUSTER MEETING

Friday, March 23, 2012

12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Lake Worth Campus

- ITEM 1. The FYE department requests faculty participation at the campus student convocations that will be held on Friday, September 7. Faculty will be part of the procession and will wear their graduation regalia. The FYE department understands that this event is not a contractual event but it is a great opportunity to welcome our new incoming students.**

Discussion: The faculty is supportive of this but unsure exactly what the event will be and what the role of the faculty will be. It was noted that some music faculty do not currently have regalia as they do not process at graduation but instead are involved in the musical performance.

Student musical groups are often requested for such college events. However, this date will be far too early in the semester for any college student music ensembles to perform, as they will only have been in session for about 2 weeks. A faculty member, alumnus, or former student **may** be available depending on what is requested.

Data/data source: Flyer in Development Day handout

Action: Awaiting further information.

- ITEM 2. Status of allowing Music Theory courses (MUT 1111, etc.) and Sight Singing courses (MUT 1241, etc.) for dual-enrolled students**

Discussion: For many years, the college has allowed dual-enrolled students to take our Music Theory courses. These consist of a pair of courses – a 3 credit Music Theory course (MUT 1111, etc.) and a 1 credit Ear Training course (MUT 1241, etc.). These courses are co-requisites for each other. In Fall 2010, Class Piano 1 was added as a corequisite for MUT 1241 and dual enrolled students were allowed to take that course as well.

During registration for Spring 2012, a dual-enrolled student was told she could not enroll for these courses (MUT 1111 and MUT 1241) even though students had been allowed to do this for several years. When Prof. MacMullen questioned this, he was told that Ginger Pederson had said this was not allowable according to the dual enrollment agreement with the Palm Beach County School District. When it was later pointed out that two other dual-enrolled students had already been allowed to take these same courses for the upcoming semester, Robin Johnson became involved. She supported the decision to not allow dual enrolled students to take the classes in question, and she directed that the two students

currently enrolled be dropped from the classes (this was shortly before the beginning of classes).

Later in the month, Allen Webber met with the IAA SubCommittee to discuss the matter. (His full report is attached to the end of these minutes.) The issue in question was the statement “Courses eligible for dual enrollment must be a minimum of three college credits; courses with two or more credits with a 1.0 credit lab are acceptable.” Prof. Webber pointed out that the Music Theory courses (MUT 1111, etc.) are a 3 credit lecture course – thereby meeting the “two or more credits” requirement” – and that the Ear Training Courses (MUT 1241, etc.) are a 1 credit lab course and are a corequisite course for the Music Theory course – thereby meeting the “with a 1.0 credit lab are acceptable” phrasing. The facts were verified at the meeting. Robin Johnson said that it was the “interpretation” of this statement from the agreement that was the reason for the decision to not allow dual enrolled students to take these courses. She did not explain who had made this “interpretation” or what the basis or rationale was for such an “interpretation” which clearly appears to be contrary to the facts.

At the cluster meeting, Allen Webber was asked if there had been any further communication following the meeting. He replied that there has been none. It appears that the decision to not allow dual enrolled students will stand. It also appears that information on who actually has made this decision and for what reason(s) will not be forthcoming.

Data/data source: various emails, including report from Allen Webber on his meeting with the IAA SubCommittee (attached to end of minutes)

Action: The Music Cluster recommends that the College revert immediately to its long-standing policy of allowing students to dual-enroll in a 1-credit course if that course is a co-requisite of the approved 3-credit dual-enrollment course, as in the case of MUT 1241L as a 1-credit co-requisite of the 3-credit MUT 1111. The Music Cluster further recommends that in the case in which the 1-credit co-requisite course (MUT 1241L, as an example) also has a 1-credit co-requisite course (such as MVK 1111A) that the College further allow the student to dual-enroll in the additional 1-credit co-requisite course.

ITEM 3. Increasing the contact hours for Jazz Guitar Ensemble (MUN 1710E)

Discussion: Adjunct professor Neil Bacher has recommended that MUN 1710E be offered on a twice-a-week schedule in the future. He feels it would be much better for student learning and retention. It is currently offered as one class meeting a week. It should therefore also be changed from 2 contact hours to 3 contact hours. This would be consistent with other music ensembles which meet twice a week (MUN 1710A, MUN 1710C, MUN 1310, MUN 1720).

Prof. Gible and MacMullen looked at the proposed schedule of classes for 2012-2013 to see if such scheduling would even be possible, considering that the only room available (HU 111) is used for many other classes and is rarely available. It was determined that MUN 1710E (Jazz Guitar Ensemble) could be scheduled for TR 5:00-6:30. Prof. Bacher was agreeable with this schedule change.

Data/data source: Tentative class schedule for 20131. Course outline for MUN 1710E

Action: Music cluster unanimously approved the motion to increase the contact hours for MUN 1710E from 2 to 3. Michael MacMullen will send the documents to curriculum.

ITEM 4. Increasing the number of times a student can repeat a music ensemble class.

Discussion: There have been some problems recently with students who repeat a music ensemble class for multiple semesters/years. This generally involves local area school teachers who are using the college credits to count towards their recertification. Although these are repeatable classes (they can be repeated for credit), there is a limit. Several students have begun (or will soon begin) to exceed the limit of maximum repeats. Since these area teachers form an important “core” for some of these ensembles and enhance the experience of other traditional students, the music cluster wants to retain these students in these ensembles.

Ginger Pedersen confirmed that the maximum allowable repeats for these courses is 9 times. This is based on how the course was originally approved by curriculum. Kathy Gamble advised that the number of repeats could be increased by bringing the matter to the curriculum committee.

Data/data source: emails from Ginger Pedersen and Kathy Gamble (both 1/6/12)

Action: It was agreed that the classes most in need of this change are MUN 1120 (Concert Band) and **MUN 1710D** and **MUN 2710D** (Tues Nite Jazz Band) as these are the ensembles that most area music teachers enroll in. It was unanimously agreed to request that these classes be changed to allow a total of 16 repeats.

Attendance
David Gible

Michael MacMullen

Allen Webber

Robert Jones

Submitted by:

Michael MacMullen
[name], Scribe, Cluster Chair

c. Minutes Distribution List

From: Webber, Allen L
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 4:47 PM
To: MacMullen, Michael J; Gibble, David L; Jones, Robert D
Cc: Grant, Vernon
Subject: Notes from today's meeting (IAA Sub Committee)

I attended today's meeting of the IAA Sub Committee in SCA 127 at 1:00, and thought I should give you a report. Attending were Robin Johnson, who chaired the meeting, Ed Willey, Susan Caldwell, Jessica B._?__ (from FAU), and Eunice Greenfield and Beth Gillespie (both from the Palm Beach County School District). As the faculty member who has taught these courses in question for over twenty years at the college, I attended, at Michael's urging, in his stead and on behalf of the Music faculty. I sensed that the committee members were not at all negative about my being there.

Robin indicated that no decision about the eligibility of MUT 1111 (Music Theory I) and its co-requisite, MUT 1241L (Ear Training I) as dual-enrollment courses would be made at today's meeting; rather, this was an opportunity for the Music Department to present "its proposal" to the subcommittee. The decision may be made by the full committee as early as this Thursday, but may take longer.

I opened by saying that the Music Department's proposal was actually not a proposal for anything new or different, but for the continuation of a policy that has been in operation for at least twenty years, and as recently as the fall semester. I presented the information on a two-page handout that Michael prepared for the meeting. Highlights from this document are below:

- Theory I (3 cr.) and Ear Training I (1 cr.), as well as the higher levels of these courses, are co-requisites of each other, and MUT 1241L (as are Ear Training II, III, & IV) is a 1-credit lab class.
- AP Theory in high school is the equivalent of Theory I AND Ear Training I, and credit for both is given by PBSC when students pass the AP Music Theory test.
- According to a logical reading of the Articulation Agreement (given to us in an e-mail from Irene Johnson), Music Theory I and Ear Training I are eligible courses for dual enrollment. The statement reads, "Courses eligible for dual enrollment must be a minimum of three college credits; courses with two or more credits with a 1.0 credit lab are acceptable."
- No mention of any particular academic discipline is indicated in the Articulation Agreement as being more or less appropriate or exclusionary for dual enrollment in courses with required labs.
- Listing of known dual-enrollment students since 2007 who have taken MUT 1111 and MUT 1241L under dual-enrollment status (there are eight of them).

There are more details in this document, but these are the highlights. If you would like a copy of the document, please ask Michael.

After I presented this information, there were a few questions:

1. Is MUT 1241L a co-requisite of MUT 1111? (Yes)
2. Is this stated in the catalog? (Yes. Ed Willey downloaded the course description from the catalog and verified this.)
3. How many students are currently taking one course without its co-requisite? (I said none, although I forgot about Harris Bisby, whom we have allowed to take Music Theory II while repeating Ear Training I).
4. Do we have any students currently taking these courses under dual enrollment? (No, because the college changed its policy and disallowed it)

Robin then said that the interpretation of the quotation from the Articulation Agreement was the reason for disallowing dual enrollment in these classes this semester. She did not say who made this interpretation, nor did she explain how this interpretation was logically arrived at from the statement. I maintained that it was an incorrect interpretation. I had my brown hat with me, and compared it to somebody “interpreting” that my hat was not brown, when it very obviously is, indeed, brown. I showed from the quotation that these courses fit the agreement. After the semi-colon in the quotation, it reads, “courses with two or more credits . . .” I said that MUT 1111 is a 3-credit course, which is certainly “two or more credits.” The next part of the quote is, “. . .with a 1.0 credit lab are acceptable.” I said that the co-requisite lab of MUT 1241L satisfies that condition, as it is a “1.0 credit lab.”

Robin indicated that the reason some science classes with labs were allowed for dual enrollment is that they had the same basic course number, such as SCI 1001 (lecture course) and SCI 1001L (lab course). These were my made-up examples, as I didn’t have reference to specific science classes. I pointed out that the college is unable to change the course numbers of ear-training classes to match exactly their co-requisite music theory classes, as the course numbering is mandated by the statewide course-numbering system.

They were running short on time by then, and there were clear signals that they were more than ready for me to leave, so I left with emphasizing that it is patently unfair to approve a lecture/lab combination for one academic area but not for another. Robin assured me that the committee’s decision would not favor one academic area over another.

I wish I had had the time and opportunity to ask whose interpretation of the statement was responsible for the disallowing of MUT 1111 and MUT 1241L as dual-enrollment eligible courses, and how that interpretation could be logically defended. I doubt that I would have been given satisfactory answers, anyway, as it seemed clear to me that I was appearing as an “expert witness,” and not as a “prosecuting attorney.” I would say that my tone was professional, yet purposeful and motivated, and I left the meeting with no hard feelings on anyone’s part, to my knowledge.

Allen Webber