To: Chancellor Koch, Interim Provost Pardie, Associate Vice Chancellor Moranski

From: James Ermatinger, Dean College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

RE: Merging Music and Theatre into pre-existing Department of Visual Arts

Date: November 11, 2011

Building upon the success of our Visual Arts Program which has had a long history of meeting the demands of students, the community, staff, and faculty, UIS hopes to highlight the Arts even more by joining the Visual and Performing Arts into one administrative unit. This move will not result in a new academic program, but rather will result in the elimination of two administrative entities. Currently, there is the Gen Ed category of Visual, Creative and Performing Arts; we are institutionalizing the General Ed program. Given that the music and theatre program are early in their development, and where students have a difficult time finding information since Theatre is located in Communications and Music does not have a department, UIS seeks to build on the student interest as relayed by admissions especially where Music students have continually expressed interest in continuing their music through performance and instruction or lessons. Students, parents and donors have consistently informed us of their difficulty in discovering the information for the arts since they are dispersed. Hopefully this interest will allow us to build and move forward to developing majors in Theatre and Music. Our plan is to administratively combine the academic programs of Visual Arts, Theatre, and Music within the preexisting administrative unit of the Department of Visual Arts which would be re-named to the Department of Art, Music, and Theatre. This will make the academic programs for the Arts more prominent and more easily recognizable to prospective students, provide a solid foundation for continual growth, and provide a forum for attracting donor interest in the Creative Arts. We also believe that this plan will allow us to continue to attract highly qualified faculty to complement our
expertise and create a prominent creative arts department. This administrative union will not increase administrative budgets.

I have asked for the advice from each of the programs and for them to vote by secret ballot on the proposal to merge the Theatre and Music Program into the Department of Visual Arts to create a renamed Department of Art, Music, and Theatre. The Department of Visual Arts has unanimously voted for this change and has also unanimously voted in separate cases to accept Drs. Eric Thibodeaux-Thompson, Missy Thibodeaux-Thompson, and Sharon Graf into their department. The Department of Communication has voted unanimously to allow the Theatre Program to leave the department. The Theatre Program has voted unanimously to join in this union with Visual Arts and Music. The Music Advisory Committee has voted unanimously for Music to join with Visual Arts and Theatre. The Sociology/Anthropology Department has voted unanimously to allow Dr. Sharon Graf to be housed jointly in the new department, if she wishes; and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Executive Committee has unanimously endorsed this change.

Enclosed please find the votes from each respective department and units as well as the Resolution to be submitted to UIS Campus Senate.
Whereas the Visual and Performing Arts are an integral part of the UIS Campus as articulated in the University and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Strategic Plans, and

Whereas UIS as a member of COPLAC strives to become one of the top 5 Public Liberal Arts institution in the U.S., and

Whereas UIS seeks to highlight the Arts to students, faculty, staff, and the community and to increase visibility and participation among the Arts, and

Whereas UIS has made new commitments to the Arts through resources, space, and personnel, and

Whereas the Department of Visual Arts, Department of Communication, Theatre Program Committee, Music Advisory Committee, and Department of Sociology/Anthropology have endorsed unanimously the moving of Theatre and Music faculty into the Department of Visual Arts, and

Whereas the Department of Visual Arts, Theatre Program Committee, and Music Advisory Committee have unanimously agreed to a creation of a single academic department, and

Whereas the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences’ Executive Committee has unanimously approved the request,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the University of Illinois at Springfield Campus Senate approves the following name change for the current Department of Visual Arts to be henceforth called the Department of Art, Music, and Theatre.
Memorandum

To: James Ermatinger, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
From: Sociology/Anthropology Department
Subject: Consent for Music Program Changes
Date: October 26, 2011

The Sociology/Anthropology Department met on Oct. 25 to discuss the proposal to move the academic music program at UIS from the Sociology/Anthropology Department to the newly renamed Department of Art, Music, and Theatre. Present for discussions and voting were: Lynn Fisher, Sharon Graf, Shoon Lio, Jennifer Manthei, Tiffani Saunders, and Hinda Seif. Voting was conducted under secret ballot. The results were as follows:

--Vote to move the academic music program from the Sociology/Anthropology Department to the newly renamed Department of Art, Music and Theatre.
   6 YES
   0 NO
   0 ABSTENTIONS

Sharon Graf is a tenured Associate Professor in Sociology/Anthropology. We understand that if the newly renamed Department of Art, Music and Theatre is approved, she may choose to move a portion or all of her faculty appointment to that newly renamed department.

--Vote to support Professor Graf’s decision in this matter. This may include, for example, working with her to negotiate a joint appointment between SOA and the newly named department if she decides that will be most productive. [Sharon Graf did not vote on this item.]
   5 YES
   0 NO
   0 ABSTENTIONS

The Sociology/Anthropology Department supports the music program changes because we see this as an opportunity for UIS Music to expand and develop in a way that will benefit the entire campus. We realize that it is Professor Graf’s decision where her departmental home will be. Department members did express concern, however, about the impact of a potential loss of part or all of a tenure line on the Sociology/Anthropology Department. Our small department gains a great deal from the participation of Professor Graf as a full-time SOA faculty member. She makes unique contributions to SOA curriculum, provides leadership as a senior department member, and has served as chair. She makes substantial contributions to the sense of intellectual excitement that attracts both students and high-quality faculty to SOA.
Here's a copy of my notes from our last meeting, Jim:

UIS Theatre Program Committee Meeting

Meeting began at 4:00pm.

Those present: Shane Harris; Michael Murphy; Joe Devereaux (student rep); Hazel Rozema; Jo Patterson; Eric Thibodeaux-Thompson; Missy Thibodeaux-Thompson

I Total Votes for "should the UIS Theatre Program merge into the bigger Arts department?"
   8-Yes 0-No

II 8-Yes 0-No

For having "Theatre" (and all 3 names--Music and Visual Arts or Art too) somewhere in the title of the new Department's Name

We should check with Brian Clevenger re: with "ART" already the prefix, is it relatively simple to call "Visual Arts" "Art"? So we can have (if we want to) "Department of Art, Music, and Theatre"--looks like this is where we're heading.

III 5-for Department of Art, Music, and Theatre
    1-for Department of Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts
    1-for Department of Visual Arts, Music, and Theatre
    1-for Abstention

IV Should Eric have power to speak on committee's behalf re: ongoing discussions related to the name of the new department.

   4-Yes
   2-Abstentions

   (PS. 2 people were absent for this vote)

V Missy Thibodeaux-Thompson is chairing search committee for tenure-track theatre faculty member search
Other Search Committee Members will be:
   Lan Dong
   Sheryl Reminger
   Michael Murphy
   Wes Abbott
   Jillian Risinger (student rep)
VI  Search Plan will be done tomorrow or Monday, says Missy. This search will happen during this fall semester/coming spring semester, with the successful candidate arriving to campus to start work in August, 2012.

VII  At the end of today's meeting, Missy heard a voice-mail from Deany Brown, which sounded like it's generally O.K. for Eric to be "ex-officio" or "consultant" on the search committee during his sabbatical next semester. More details re: this to come soon.

VIII  In an effort to pick a better next meeting time, so that Lan Dong can also more easily attend next meeting, 10:00am, Thursday, December 8th is tentatively scheduled for our next UIS Theatre Program Committee Meeting time. It will again be in VPA 127.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.

Thanks,
Eric

Eric Thibodeaux-Thompson
Associate Professor of Theatre
Director of UIS Theatre
University of Illinois Springfield
www.uis.edu/theatre
Sent from my iPad
The Communication Department faculty met yesterday and voted by secret ballot unanimously in favor of the Theatre program moving to the newly named Department of Art, Music, and Theatre.

Kathy Petite Jamison, PhD
Associate Professor & Chair
Communication Department
University of Illinois, Springfield

Office: UHB 3024
Phone: 217.206.8032

Colleagues:

I. As agreed, here are the steps for the voting to be done by October 28, 2011.

A. Art
   1. Vote by secret ballot to change name to XXX and to accept the Theater and Music programs.
   2. Vote on each person separately to enter the newly renamed department XXX, i.e. Eric Thibodeaux-Thompson, Missy Thibodeaux-Thompson, and Sharon Graf.

B. Theater, vote to move to the newly renamed department XXX

C. Communication, vote to endorse the request by the Theater program to move to the newly renamed department XXX.

D. Music, vote to move to the newly renamed department XXX.

E. Sociology/Anthropology, vote so that if the newly renamed department XXX is approved that Sharon Graf may have a joint appointment with a tenure home in either the newly renamed department XXX or Sociology/Anthropology.

II. We will begin to work on the by-laws of the newly renamed department XXX. I am here to help, so please do not hesitate to call upon me. I have had experience in departments like this which have multiple entities.

III. As seen in my September 30, 2011 email each entity has been given permission to begin their searches. Please submit each request to search and search plan to me ASAP. Once all three positions have been submitted, we will move ahead. You may wish to create not only separate ads, but a common ad that we put in one or more publication.
Thank you all for a productive meeting. I believe that we can truly begin to highlight the arts and to continue to attract highly qualified faculty to complement our expertise and create a prominent creative arts department for our students and the public.

Jim

James Ermatinger
Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Science
University of Illinois at Springfield
University Hall, room 3000
One University Plaza, MS UHB 3000
Springfield, Illinois 62703-5407
217-206-6512
Fax: 217-206-6217
E-mail: jerma2@uis.edu
MEMORANDUM

TO: James Ermatinger, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

FROM: Sharon Graf, Chair Music Advisory Committee, Director of UIS Co-Curricular Music

DATE: October 17, 2011

RE: Consent for Music Program Changes

The members of the Music Advisory Committee have discussed and consent to the proposal to move the academic Music program at UIS from the Sociology/Anthropology Department to the newly named Department of Art, Music, and Theatre. The members of the Committee are Lynn Fisher, Hilary Frost-Kumpf, Sharon Graf, Jan Kirkham, Pat Langley, Jonathan Perkins, and Larry Shiner.
The Visual Arts Department met on 10-10-11 and voted on a departmental name change, acceptance of the Music and Theatre Programs into the renamed department, and the acceptance of tenured or tenure-track individuals currently located in the Music or Theatre Programs. Below are the results of the voting, which was conducted under secret ballot:

Vote to change the name of the Visual Arts Department to the Department of Art, Music, and Theatre.
4 YES
0 NO
0 ABSTENTIONS

Vote to accept the Music and Theatre Programs into the Department of Art, Music, and Theatre.
4 YES
0 NO
0 ABSTENTIONS

Vote to accept Associate Professor Sharon Graf into the Department of Art, Music, and Theatre.
4 YES
0 NO
0 ABSTENTIONS

Vote to accept Associate Professor Eric Thibodeaux-Thompson into the Department of Art, Music, and Theatre.
4 YES
0 NO
0 ABSTENTIONS

Vote to accept Assistant Professor Milissa Thibodeaux-Thompson into the Department of Art, Music, and Theatre.
4 YES
0 NO
0 ABSTENTIONS

I believe that we now have a new department in the College of CLAS - The Department of Art, Music, and Theatre!

Lynn and Jim, Please advise- does this change become effective immediately? Are there further approvals that must take place? At any rate, we can all finalize our search copy with the new department name and begin our respective searches. Also, regarding the acceptance of Sharon Graf, the committee voted to accept Sharon, but we realize that it is ultimately her decision where her departmental "home" will be.

I look forward to working with you all-

Sincerely, Mike