Resolution #8 1992-93

TO: President John E. Van de Wetering
FROM: The Faculty Senate Meeting on: 12-14-92 (Date)
RE: X I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)  
    II. Recommendation (Urging the fitness of)  
    III. Other (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)  
    For your information
SUBJECT: BFA in Dance

Signed ___________________________ Date Sent 3-8-93
(For the Senate)

TO: The Faculty Senate
FROM: President John E. Van de Wetering
RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution 
    a. Accepted. Effective Date
    b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate
    c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II, III. 
    a. Received and acknowledged 
    b. Comment: 

DISTRIBUTION:
SEE ATTACHED LIST
Cover Page only

Distribution Date 3/7/93 Signed: ___________________________
(President of the College)
DEPARTMENT OF DANCE
SUNY COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT

PROGRAM PROPOSALS
BFA IN DANCE
BA/BS IN DANCE, REVISION

From: William Moulton
Irma Pylyshenko

Program Committee - Undergraduate
Department of Dance

CONTENT

1. Letter of Intent, BFA in Dance
2. Reply from Albany
3. The BFA in Dance
4. Revised BA/BS in Dance
5. Attached: Current BA/BS Dance Major Program

12/3/92
Letter of Intent
B.F.A.

Program Identity

1. **Proposed Title**
   The Department of Dance, State University College at Brockport, hereby requests the initiation of a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program in Dance.

2. **Award**
   Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance

3. **Proposed beginning date:**
   September 1993

Planning Factors

1. **Brief description**
   The B.F.A. in dance would have strong performance, technical and choreographic components. It would emphasize the training of dancers for proficiency in performance and choreography and as a necessary aid to becoming accomplished teachers of dance at all levels. Similar to our current B.A. degree, it would also offer in-depth study of music, history, Lebannotation, anatomy and kinesiology, production, and other important dance-related studies. It would be a well rounded course of study that would look at dance in cross cultural contexts as well as examining its relation to other arts and its place in society as a whole.

2. **Relation to existing program**
   The B.F.A. would contain a core curriculum similar to our current B.A. (40 credits in dance and related courses). To this core we would add a large block of technique courses (24 credits) plus electives (18 credits) to equal an 82 hour B.F.A. degree. Although the program would focus on technique and performance, each student would have the flexibility to mold the program towards his or her needs.
   When we institute the B.F.A. we would be able to streamline the B.A. into a liberal arts oriented program that would focus on a student-declared area of emphasis within the major. The major would have a 36 hour requirement with electives not to exceed 18 hours.
   Because of the depth of the program at Brockport -- unparalleled in all but a few university dance programs throughout the country -- the bulk of the B.F.A. program is already in place. This would afford a very easy transition to a combination B.A. and B.F.A. program.

3. **Similar Programs**
   The only similar program is at S.U.N.Y. Purchase which draws its clientele from New York City and eastern New York State (as well as a large out of state population). Traditionally there has been little overlap between these two programs.
   More than just serving a different clientele geographically though, we look to build on existing strengths and a departmental mission that is different than the mission of S.U.N.Y Purchase.
Purchase serves primarily as a training school for professional dance companies in major metropolitan centers. Although we too have placed dancers in many major companies, we hope to continue to expand our training of teachers and performers who will bring dance to, and upgrade the artistic climate of small and medium size towns across upstate New York and beyond. This form of decenteralization is a mission that we are already serving; it is a clientele that we know well. In our discussions we have realized that to better serve our future clientele we must have a stronger technique and performance track in our program.

4. Practice teaching, internships, etc.

There will be no added practice teaching or internships needed in the proposed B.F.A. program. Already in place are methods classes in which practice teaching situations are available for the student.

Need

1. Clientele

The Dance Department at Brockport draws its students from upstate New York and transfer students from area two-year colleges and other SUNY institutions without dance major programs. We also regularly attract students from abroad (Jamaica, England, Taiwan and others)

One of the strengths of a B.F.A. at Brockport is its affordability. It can help provide the lower middle class and middle class student with an alternative to the expensive programs from which they now must choose.

As well, the B.F.A. would help maintain current enrollments both by encouraging our best students to remain in the program and by attracting new and gifted students to Brockport. There is a strong interest on the part of many of our students in an intensive and performance based degree. As well, many students looking for a dance program want a B.F.A. degree, not only as a more in-depth study of technique and performance, but as an aid to preparing themselves for graduate work, work with a dance company, or continued professional study as dancers.

The department has historically been in a position of national leadership in the field of dance. Current students need a broad range of experiences and choice of curriculum to best prepare them for the field of dance as it will exist in the year 2000 and beyond. As well, today's students bring with them more diverse backgrounds and therefore need a great range of areas of study. One of the ways we have kept in the forefront of curricular development is by anticipating important trends in dance. We feel this trend towards a greater diversification of students and their needs and goals will be one of the strongest trends in future years. The B.F.A. along with the current B.A. will help to serve this diversified student population. It will also complement our current M.A. and proposed M.F.A. degrees.

2. Student demand

Although it is difficult to measure accurately the demand for a B.F.A., we receive many inquiries from potential students looking for such a program in a liberal arts setting. We also know (as stated above), that many of our current students would be more adequately served by a B.F.A.
3. Employment possibilities for graduates

Our students end up in many areas of dance: some join professional companies or find other professional performing venues, some work in arts management, some form their own companies or do related creative work. Possibly the largest population teaches in private dance studios and schools across the state and country (of which there are hundreds). These students are important to the continuing growth and development of the field of dance since they will train the next generation of dancers. It is these students who especially need the training in technique and performance that the B.F.A. affords.

A B.F.A. would help give our students the necessary training to compete successfully in an increasingly competitive dance world. Not only are technical expectations much higher than they were even a few years ago, but rigorous training in many related areas (kinesiology, music, teaching, movement sciences etc.) is now expected of dance students as they come out of the university.

Fiscal Factors

1. Faculty Lines

The B.F.A. would require no extra faculty lines or other support services.

2. Facilities

Our teaching and performing facilities are among the finest in the country. We have seven dance studios and our own dance theatre. As well, we have library facilities with extensive dance holdings. These facilities could easily handle the demands of a B.F.A. program. With regards to additional workload, the faculty spends many non-credited hours in teaching and supervising students’ creative projects and technical progress. The B.F.A. could help document and give credit for this work to both student and teacher.

3. Enrollment

Projected enrollment for the new B.F.A. program in 5 years would be 40 students. We estimate that roughly a third of our students would be in the B.F.A. program at that time.

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4. Other Funding Requirements

None.

In conclusion, the faculty of the Dance Department is unanimous in its support for a B.F.A. We think that it will help to realize the mission of our department and college by providing a thorough professional training in dance in a liberal arts context. For the 23 year history of this department we have supported this dual mission. Through this B.F.A. program, we are convinced we will be better able to serve our students and the upstate New York community.
President John E. Van de Wetering  
State University College  
Brockport, New York 14420  

Dear John:  

Your Letter of Intent for a program in Dance leading to the Bachelor of Fine  
Arts degree has now been reviewed by the Academic Program Review Committee. I am  
delighted to inform you that you may proceed with the development of a program  
proposal in accordance with Memorandum to Presidents Vol. 88, No. 10, "Revised  
Guidelines for Submission of Academic Program Proposals."  

The title is approvable, and the HEGIS code will be #1006. The College at  
Potsdam offers a B.A. degree in Dance, and the College at Purchase offers a B.F.A.  
degree in Dance. Enclosed is an excerpt from the SUNY APIS report that indicates  
enrollment for these programs for 1989 through 1991.  

Your Program Proposal should make clear the distinction among the existing B.A.  
and B.S. degree programs and the B.F.A.. We note that although the B.S. degree  
maintains the steady enrollment, it is the B.A. program that is referenced in the Letter of  
Intent. A clarification of your intent with regard to all these programs would be helpful.  

We noted that the program requires no practice teaching or internships but that  
methods classes and practice teaching are available for students in the program. We will  
be addressing the matter of public school teacher certification in Dance K-12 shortly in a  
separate letter.
According to the Memorandum cited above, you should advise Provost Burke if you plan to develop a proposal for this program. If we can be of any assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Jarvis
Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Research

Enclosure

xc: Dr. Robert J. McLean
Dr. Phyllis Bader-Borel
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Program and Campus</th>
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<td>S.U. College at Purchase</td>
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*Note: The table continues with similar data for other programs and campuses.*
The BFA in Dance

Introduction and Rationale

The Department of Dance at Brockport is well prepared to offer a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Dance. It is in a unique position in this regard, having developed the first undergraduate major dance program in the State University of New York with a BA/BS degree in 1969. Nationally it is one of the oldest and most highly respected programs in dance.

In fact, the breadth of the current BA/BS approaches the size of most BFA programs. When students also elect to take additional dance courses because they want to prepare themselves for professional careers in dance they often exceed the 54 credit hour limit in their major discipline. The result is that they accumulate more than 120 credit hours before they have fulfilled all the requirements for graduation, and they very often remain at Brockport for additional semesters, - much to the chagrin of parents who have to shoulder the financial burden.

The natural solution to this problem for the department is the institution of a BFA program in conjunction with scaled down BA/BS. The BFA would satisfy student preparing for professional dance careers within the context of a 120 credit hour degree. On the other hand, a BA/BS degree with fewer required major courses would be more in line with other liberal arts major programs at Brockport. It would even allow these students to have a second major, which is what many of them would like.

Furthermore, since the only BFA program in dance in the SUNY system is located at Purchase in downstate White Plains, Brockport's geographic location at the opposite end of our state will be more accessible to dance students from western New York. We do not see our program in competition with SUNY Purchase. We shall only make professional study possible for those students for whom long distance travel, higher living costs and urban environment are deterrents.

The proposed BFA can be offered within existing resources. The highly qualified faculty, extensive studio facilities, fine dance library and well equipped dance theater all serve to encourage institution of BFA study at Brockport. As well, Brockport has one of the most broadly conceived and culturally diverse dance curricula in the country. The BFA will not only capitalize on the strengths of the faculty and meet the criteria for BFA
proposals established by the National Association of Schools of Dance but will, we think, prove to be in the vanguard of a new wave of curriculum building in the field of dance that will be based on a much greater diversity of choice for the student.

Uniqueness of the proposed BFA

The proposed BFA has an unusually broad course of study. It offers a strong core of courses with a wide range of courses as required electives to choose from. It draws on strong support areas such as African Dance, movement theories, music, history, and production. The only other BFA in dance in SUNY is at Purchase. Conceptually the BFA at Brockport would contrast sharply with that at Purchase. Purchase seeks to train professional dancers for companies in New York, and other large urban centers. Brockport’s clientele has traditionally been students who, after graduation, often join small regional dance companies or teach at studios in their home towns or other smaller communities across the country. This does not mean, however, that Brockport dance alumni cannot be found in major dance companies, also.

Increased enrollment for dance through more options

Simultaneously, with the development of a BFA program, the dance department is also working on other program options. We are streamlining the existing BA/BS degree in dance, creating a 24 hour Certificate in Dance studies and finally, we will soon forward a proposal for a BFA with Teaching Certification K-12. These are program options which students and parents of prospective students are consistently inquiring about. We have the resources to satisfy these demands. We feel these options will offer a wider variety of career choices and study options thereby attracting more students, and serving current students better.

Brockport’s BA/BS in Dance as a foundation for a BFA in Dance

Brockport’s current BA/BS in dance is one of the largest and most complete in the country. It balances a wide range of dance offerings with a strong liberal arts perspective.

The proposed BFA in dance will be built on the current BA/BS program. The primary addition to this curriculum will be the addition of more technical training for the student. This will not require instituting new courses but will allow students to take more of the courses that are currently being offered. In the past these technical courses were generally taken by students despite the fact
that it forced them to graduate with well over 120 credits. This was something that the students strongly desired and the faculty supported because of the realization of the importance of this training for survival in an increasingly competitive job market. Under the new program, students would receive degree credit for the work they do.

In our current BA/BS program much of the work that is done involves real performance situations, both in concerts at Brockport (Dime-a-Dance, Hartwell Dances, undergraduate and graduate Student Dance Concerts, and Danscore and Sankofa concerts) and touring at a number of different levels (Danscore and Sankofa touring programs). Much of this work is extraordinarily intense and time consuming. It often goes uncredited for both student and faculty. In the proposed BFA this work, that is so crucial to the training of our students will be properly credited.

BFA degree within existing resources
Because developing a BFA degree will fundamentally be a restructuring of our current BA/BS program and including courses which are taken as electives, we will be able to institute it without requiring more faculty lines or other resources.

(See attached page of current BA/BS major requirements)

Degree requirements:

BFA in Dance

Dance Technique: (27 credits selected from the following)
DNS 205 Beginning Dance Technique and Survey
DNS 245-249 Dance Technique and Theory: Beginning
DNS 345-350 Dance Technique and Theory: Intermediate
DNS 445-450 Dance Technique and Theory: Advanced
DNS 454 Dance Styles (an umbrella course including three levels of Ballet and special topics by faculty and guest artists)
Choreography and Performance: (20 credits)
DNS 364 Dance Improvisation
DNS 306 Beginning Dance Composition
DNS 430 Intermediate composition
DNS 424 and 425 Dance Repertory and Literature
DNS 427 Dance Performance Techniques
DNS 49X DANS CORE
THE 221 Acting I

Music for Dance: (8 credits)
MUS 100 Fundamentals of Music for Dance
MUS 300 Music for Dance
MUS 420 Music Literature for Dance

Theory: (15 credits)
DNS 206 Twentieth Century Dance: Issues and Styles
DNS 316 History and Development of Dance
DNS 375 Introduction to laban movement Analysis
  or DNS 461 Labanotation
DNS 305 Kinesiology
DNS 495 Senior Seminar in Dance

Dance Production: (6 credits)
DNS 207 Dance Production
DNS 462 Lighting for Dance

**TOTAL CORE REQUIREMENTS** 76 CREDITS

Plus 9 credits required electives by advisement selected from the following and
other dance offerings:

DNS 200 African Dance I
DNS 330 African Dance II
DNS 433 African Dance III
DNS 232 African Music and Drumming for Dance
DNS 371 and 372 Modern Dance Technique I and II
DNS 302 Social Dance Forms
DNS 399 and 499 Independent Study
Art 212 3-Dimensional Design
THE 221 Acting I

TOTAL BFA MAJOR REQUIREMENTS 85 CREDITS
GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES 35 CREDITS
TOTAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS 120 CREDITS

12/3/92
BA/BS in Dance Studies

As indicated in our letter of intent, and affirmed by the positive reply from Albany, we need to reduce the requirements of our current BA/BS to bring it more in line with other liberal arts majors. We feel that, though it is impossible to adequately train a dancer for work as a teacher, performer, or choreographer in a BA/BS with scaled down degree requirements, it is useful to us and to the college to offer a liberal arts major in Dance Studies. This degree focuses on a general study of dance and less on a rigorous technical training. Through this course of study, students will receive a well rounded introduction to the field of dance, and take some practical studio dance courses. They will have the option then to take additional electives in areas of personal interest. This freedom could allow them the possibility of carrying another major if they were so inclined.

Requirements for the BA/BS in Dance Studies

Dance Technique:
DNS 205 Beginning Technique and Survey of Dance 3 cr
DNS 245-250 or 345-350 or 445-450
   (Beginning, Intermediate or Advanced Technique and Theory of Dance)
   or
DNS 454 Dance Styles: Ballet 7 cr

Choreography:
DNS 364 Dance Improvisation 3 cr
DNS 306 Beginning Dance Composition 3 cr

Theory:
DNS 206 Twentieth Century Dance
   or
DNS 316 History and Development of Dance 3 cr
MUS 100 Fundamentals of Music for Dance 2 cr
MUS 420 Music Literature for Dance 3 cr
DNS 305 Kinesiology
or
DNS 375 Introduction to Laban Movement Analysis 3 cr

Required Electives selected from the following:
DNS 200 African Dance, Jazz, Ballroom Dance
DNS 302 Social Forms of Dance
DNS 454 Dance Styles: Fagan Technique or others
DNS 483 Children’s Dance 9 cr

One semester of participation in concert production required 0 cr

TOTAL 36 cr

12/3/92
**Major Requirements**

The dance major must complete 36 credits in dance and an additional 13 credits in fine arts and biology. A minimal grade of "C" must be attained in all required courses. Specific requirements follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dance Requirements - 36 credits</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>DNS 205 Beginning Technique and Survey of Dance</td>
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<td>DNS 206 Twentieth Century Dance: Issues and Styles</td>
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<td>DNS 305 Kinesiology for Dancers</td>
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<tr>
<td>DNS 375 Introduction to Laban Movement Analysis</td>
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Six credits in dance technique and theory from the following three series, with at least one semester taken at the intermediate or advanced level:

| DNS 345-350 or DNS 445-450 | 6       |
| DNS 245-249 Dance Technique & Theory: Beginning | 6       |
| DNS 345-350 Dance Technique & Theory: Intermediate | 6       |
| DNS 445-450 Dance Technique & Theory: Advanced | 6       |

Total: 36

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*Note to transfer students: transfer credits in dance are usually accepted as dance electives. A maximum of 18 credits may be transferred into the dance major.

*Assignment to an appropriate level of Dance Technique (beginning, intermediate, advanced) will be based on a placement examination.

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**Additional Courses in Fine Arts and Biology: 13 credits**

| FA 101 Fundamentals of Music for Dance | 2       |
| FA 300 Music for Dance | 3       |
| FA 420 Music Literature for Dance | 3       |
| FA 495 Senior Seminar: Dance in Contemporary Culture | 2       |
| **BIO 221 Survey of Anatomy & Physiology** | 3       |

Total: 13

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*FA 101 is a prerequisite for FA 300. Students with a strong background in music may be exempted from the fundamentals course by examination.

**To be taken during the fall semester in preparation for DNS 305 in the spring.