



Accreditation Process Review

Agenda

- Departmental Characteristics
- Accreditation Process
- Application
- Result



Scope, Size, and Demographics

- 104 Theatre Majors
- 19 Theatre Minors
- Critical mass for a BA Theatre program has been maintained for over 25 years



Facility

- Strayer-Wood Theatre
- Size limitations and aging infrastructure indicate need for renovation



Degree Options

BA in Theatre with three focus areas



Performance



Design and Production



Drama and Theatre for Youth

- Wide range of employment opportunities
 - Strong Placement



Sturgis Youth Theatre

- Substantial focus on Autism outreach



Distribution of Majors

- Performance: 50
- Design and Production: 31
- Drama and Theatre for Youth: 18
- Communication – Theatre – Teaching: 5

Overview of Department

Annual \$60,000-\$70,000 operating budget derived from student fees and Box Office revenue



Overview of Department

Since 2010, host for annual Iowa Thespians Festival

- 900 high school students on campus
- 2 days of Theatre activities



Overview of Department

Ongoing partnership with UNI's Cornerstone course – provides staged performances tied to annual special topic



Overview of Department

- 11 Faculty members
- 2 non-Administrative Staff Members
- Adequate to achieve stated curricular and production program outcomes

Accreditation Process

Accrediting Body

- National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST)
- Consists of 177 schools of theatre
- Ensures that an institution is achieving its own goals and goals that are set by NAST

Accreditation Process

Values to the Program and Graduates

- Accreditation gives legitimacy to the program
- UNI is the second school in Iowa to be accredited, and the only one focusing entirely on undergraduates
- Encourages institutions to ensure that students are getting the greatest benefit from their education
- Ensures the opportunity to compare resources to other accredited institutions

Accreditation Process

- Self-Study
- On-Site Review
- Commission Review
- Opportunity to respond to noted concerns



Self-Study

- Program assesses students, faculty, and overall work; compare it to NAST standards
- Can show areas that need improvement and help set goals for future development



On-Site Review

April 2011:

NAST evaluators visit

- analyze the program to see that it is meeting NAST criteria
- Offer suggestions on improvements

Commission Review

The Commission Committee reviews the institution's Self-Study/Visitors' Report, then decides whether or not to admit the institution.

- Commission review occurs annually in advance of NAST's conference.

Initial Application Result

- Initial Application submitted in 2011
- 2012: NAST issued Notification of Deferral

Deferral is the standard response while an institution works to correct deficiencies or clarify issues



NAST Concerns of 2012

Communication – Theatre - Teaching Degree

- Might not meet NAST standards for degrees for Education
- Concerns also expressed for consistency between degree title and content for that program

Curriculum requirements in General BA Theatre Degree might not meet expectations with only 34 semester hours

Responses

Along with other programs at UNI, the Communication – Theatre - Teaching degree was suspended from admission while restructuring occurred. That process was completed in 2013.

NAST conclusion: program did not fall into their examination purview.

The Department made the decision to drop the General BA Theatre degree option

- all students need to complete a focus area

NAST Concerns of 2013

NAST sought clarity for how the institution meets standards for credit hours and contact time requirements

Response: Department worked with University officials to provide clear definitions for course credit expectations in the university catalogue

Final Result

NAST accredits UNI: 2014

- Five year period of accreditation
- Apply for renewal of membership at the end of five years (*2019*)
- Institutions with renewed membership are granted ten years of accreditation
- Sturgis Youth Theatre program also receives listing on NAST website

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Thank you!