

National Association of Schools of Music
11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21
Reston, Virginia 20190-5248

COMMISSION ACTION REPORT

This document provides the official action of the Commission as indicated in the cover letter of the same date.

December 18, 2015

KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Department of Music

Actions:

Action 1 of 3: Application for renewal of Membership – Original

The Commission voted to grant renewal of Membership with the degree listing indicated below.

The Commission requests a Progress Report addressing the issues cited below.

NASM Degree Listing:

Bachelor of Arts in Music (Commercial Music, General).
Bachelor of Science in Music Education.

Next Full Review:

2024-2025 Academic Year

Item for Progress Report:

The Commission requests an update on the institution's efforts to hire an Assistant Chair for the music unit (see Optional Response, p. 6; Visitors' Report, pp. 3 and 12; NASM *Handbook 2014-15*, Standards for Accreditation II.D.1.d.).

Action 2 of 3: Application for Plan Approval – Original

The Commission voted to defer action on the application for Plan Approval for the degree, Master of Education in Music Education pending Response to the concerns listed below.

Items for Response:

1. The Commission acknowledges the institution's statement that "Graduate programs are expected to utilize a comprehensive review near the end of the program of study" (see Application for Plan Approval, p. 14). The Commission also acknowledges the institution's description of a final project in

KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Department of Music

NASM Commission Action Report

December 18, 2015

Page 2

its course MUU 595 in which “students synthesize their coursework into a set of program responsive final materials.” However, it is not clear that a comprehensive review is required prior to completion of the degree program. The Commission seeks evidence that such a review is required. Evidence may include a catalogue statement regarding the requirement or a statement in the course description for MUU 595 that the course serves as the required comprehensive review experience in the degree program (see NASM *Handbook 2014-15*, Standards for Accreditation X.C.7.a.).

2. The Commission seeks a status report on the institution’s progress towards the appointment of a new faculty member in Music Education to assist with delivery of this program (see Application for Plan Approval, pp. 16 and 18).

Action 3 of 3: Application for Plan Approval – Response

The Commission voted to accept the Response and grant Plan Approval for the following degree:

Bachelor of Arts in Music (Commercial Music).

The Commission notes that because the major area of this degree has already received Final Approval for Listing, a separate application for Final Approval for Listing for this area of emphasis is not necessary.

Due Date:

May 1 for consideration at the Commission meetings of June 2016.

The *Procedures for Submitting Responses and Progress Reports* may be downloaded from the NASM website at <http://nasm.arts-accredit.org> (see “Accreditation Procedures” and beneath that, “Other Procedures”).

Commendation:

The commission commends the institution for its thorough and succinct responses to Commission requests and for its attention to NASM standards and guidelines.



Karen P. Moynahan
Executive Director

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COMMISSION ACTION REPORT

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December 16, 2016

KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Department of Music

Action:

Action 1 of 1: Application for Plan Approval – Response

The Commission voted to continue to defer action on the application for Plan Approval for the degree, Master of Education in Music Education (Certification) (Distance Learning) pending Response to the concern listed below.

Item for Response:

The Commission notes that the institution provided information regarding entrance requirements, distance learning, and licensure (See Response to Commission Action Report dated July 6, 2016). The Commission also acknowledges the institution's explanation regarding titling, noting that the State System of Higher Education of Pennsylvania approves degree titles centrally, and that renaming the degree, such as Master of Arts in Teaching, would be an arduous and lengthy process, delaying state approval by two years or more (See Response, pp. 12-13; NASM *Handbook 2015-16*, Standards for Accreditation XII.B.3.). The Commission notes that it was for this reason that the institution's original application for Plan Approval was submitted to NASM for review as a track within its existing Master of Education in Music Education.

Concerns regarding NASM standards arise, however, in that these two programs - the existing Master of Education in Music Education and the proposed Master of Education in Music Education (Certification) (Distance Learning) - are substantively different, both in content and in intended purpose. It appears that:

- a. Only two courses are shared between the two degrees, MUU 520 Instructional Systems Design and Learning Processes in Music and MUU 525 Advanced Foundations of Music Education (See Application for Plan Approval, pp. 2-3; <http://www.kutztown.edu/academics/colleges-and-departments/visual-and-performing-arts/majors-and-minors/music/prospective-students/degree-programs/m.ed.-in-music-education/degree-requirements.htm>).
- b. The existing Master of Education in Music Education clearly is intended as a graduate degree given its required advanced education coursework, electives, and supporting courses in music which comprise at least one-third of the curriculum, including advanced theory and musicology. The newly proposed program substitutes for this coursework what appears to be content replicating that found in undergraduate teaching-certification programs, coursework such as

KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**Department of Music**

NASM Commission Action Report

December 16, 2016

Page 2

elementary, choral, and instrumental methods; clinical experiences; and student teaching. The dissonance between the purposes and content of these two curricula require further study and consideration.

Central also to the titling concern is the assumption that the proposed curriculum required in this master's degree is taught at the graduate level. As presented, it is not clear that the new curriculum holds a purpose parallel to or meets the same accreditation standards as the existing program (See *NASM Handbook 2015-16*, Standards for Accreditation XIV.E.1.-4.). The institution is asked to review these issues and to provide further information regarding this degree and compliance with applicable standards. Renaming the degree, Master of Music in Teaching (See *NASM Handbook 2015-16*, Standards for Accreditation XII.B.3.), would enable the institution to differentiate the purposes and content of the degrees. However, should the intention of the institution be to offer a master's degree program, the degree must still meet requirements common to all master's degrees (See *NASM Handbook 2015-16*, Standards for Accreditation XII.A.1.-6.). Whether intended as a track in the existing degree or as a separate degree, it is not clear that the standards requiring title and content are being met. The institution is requested to demonstrate compliance with these standards.

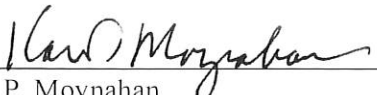
Due Date:

May 1 for consideration at the Commission meetings of June 2017.

The Procedures for Submitting Responses and Progress Reports may be downloaded from the NASM website at <http://nasm.arts-accredit.org/accreditation/accreditation-materials/> (See "Procedures" and beneath that, "Responses and Progress Reports").

Notes:

1. The Commission recognizes that the institution is working diligently to fulfill its educational and artistic purposes, and that it is endeavoring to address and respond to the issues raised by the Commission. At this time, as a matter of procedure, the Commission asks the institution to review the policy in the NASM Rules of Practice and Procedure regarding continuous deferrals (See *NASM Handbook 2015-16*, Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II., Article IV., Section 3.). The next consideration of the institution's response will be the third consideration of the application.
2. It is recommended that the institution contact NASM staff for assistance in preparing its Response.



Karen P. Moynahan
Executive Director

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COMMISSION ACTION REPORT

This document provides the official action of the Commission as indicated in the cover letter of the same date.

July 5, 2017**KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA****Department of Music****Action:****Action 1 of 1:** Progress Report after renewal of Membership

The Commission voted to accept the Progress Report.

Note:

The Commission notes that the application for Plan Approval for the degree, Master of Education in Music Education (Certification) (Distance Learning) has been withdrawn.

Completion of Process:

The acceptance of this Progress Report brings to a close the comprehensive evaluation process that began in 2015. NASM appreciates the institution's extraordinary efforts clearly evident in its application. To assist with future planning, the institution may wish to note that its next comprehensive review is scheduled to be conducted during the 2024-2025 academic year.



Karen P. Moynahan
Executive Director

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