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**HILO**

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

To: Justina Mattos, Chair of the Performing Arts Department

From: Kris Roney, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Subject: VCAA Feedback on Performing Arts Program Review

CC: Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor  
Michael Bitter, Interim Dean for CAS  
Seri Luangphinit, Accreditation Liaison Officer

This document is intended for the department's reflection on their review and the subsequent feedback as they prepare the Academic Plan for the next 5-year cycle for review.

### **Assessment**

As with many of the UH Hilo programs, this area is one of significant concern, as the work of assessment is minimal owing to a relatively late inception. It is imperative, as noted by the Dean, ALO, and External Reviewer that the program work consistently in assessing the student outcomes so as to address learning gaps quickly. That the department identified means of addressing written communication concerns fairly rapidly speaks well for the future in this area. The results of that change will be telling, and the faculty of the department are encouraged to create an internal framework for assessment that allows for regular review. It is essential to bear in mind that the effects of assessment and review are long-term, while students themselves are transitory. As evidenced by the written communication response, which appropriately addresses the structure of an assignment and considers the pedagogy that develops students, the department is heading in the right direction.

### **Resourcing**

This office acknowledges that Performing Arts has been left in a tenuous situation with regard to faculty resources, though part of the relationship with the community should be their inclusion in the curriculum as lecturers where practicable. To have that sort of robust community/university partnership is an essential feature for continuing to build on the community space already established. The department is encouraged to consider creating a strategic goal of creating a more formal alliance with community, which would be inclusive of strategic lecturer and adjunct participation.

This should not be understood as a dismissal of the needs for Performing Arts in more formal faculty lines. The ongoing work toward stabilizing and building enrollments through General Education is wise and should bear out positively in arguments for strategic hires in the future.

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As noted in the review itself, some of this—what exactly such hiring might look like—is predicated on the stabilization of dance as a track. As the curriculum is reviewed and assessed (more on this below), the program and college should identify which track has the greatest need and which the most strength and consider which of these elements is most conducive to stabilizing the program as a whole. Consideration as to community-engaged teaching hires as outlined above should also inform this process.

### **Enrollment**

Again, the work to establish a larger core of GE classes is positive. Performing Arts should be a major part of the service curriculum with broad access for non-majors.

### **Curricular Revision**

I support the initial changes as described to begin moving in a better direction for majors, who are clearly frustrated in the current programming. I encourage the faculty to consider how to best assist those in the present configuration to streamline their progress, rather than perpetuating a known set of frustrations. As the external review notes, it is unlikely that this is itself sufficient for the program, making the assessment data as well as substantive community engagement with a council such as is described in the external review, all the more critical to identifying where the resources need to be focused for the strongest possible program.

Mahalo for your positive efforts on so many fronts, and I look forward to addressing the challenges and possibilities with you as we progress into the future.