ANNUAL REPORT OF EFFECTIVENESS

Academic Year 2001-2002
Summer 2001, Fall 2001, Spring 2002

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
ANNUAL REPORT
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As a result of our self-study in preparation for the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) visit during the spring of 2001, we noticed a number of strengths and weaknesses. The visitors for NASM also noted strengths and weaknesses.

For the purposes of this report, focus will remain upon weaknesses and steps we have taken to overcome them.

The most important weakness was our lack of music technology for students. We had been requesting a student computer laboratory for a number of years. This is a requirement for accreditation. So, fortunately, the university did fund our laboratory, which is now up and running. We are incorporating technology into much or our coursework.

Our other big area of concern to faculty and NASM was our low enrollment in the Master of Music Education degree. After more discussion amongst the faculty, we decided to do away with the degree. It was felt that with current circumstances we could not attract a large number of graduate students to our campus. So we finished up offering graduate level courses for degrees this past summer.

Obviously, we are limited in our desire to provide first class equipment and experiences for our students due to financial restraints. However, the faculty is committed to doing everything possible to provide a quality education for our students with limited resources.

Enclosed are copies of the NASM visitors report, our response, the letter from NASM advising us of our deferral status (until three items were adequately addressed), and their letter stating their acceptance of our accreditation application.
Department of Music
DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Department of Music has a long history of excellence at Delta State. The Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in music was initiated in 1961. The Bachelor of Music Education degree was started in 1949. The National Association of Schools of Music initially accredited all music degrees in 1975. This included the degrees Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music Education, Bachelor of Music and Master of Music Education. We contribute to the cultural life of the university and broader community by putting on approximately 60 public recitals and concerts per year. Our graduates have done well in all areas of music including music teaching, music performance, church music, music therapy, and music business. Two of our graduates are currently department chairs two of the 500+ schools of music which are nationally accredited by NASM-the University of Kentucky and New Mexico State University. The department offers music appreciation courses, applied music lessons, and performing groups to music majors and non-majors alike. These contribute to the university's mission of providing a broad liberal arts curriculum. Music is an essential part of that curriculum. The music program also fits into the university's mission of promoting cultural development. The music program supports the university goal of providing a rich campus life with a variety of cultural activities. Further, the department helps the university fulfill its purposes of general education by assisting students to gain a knowledge and appreciation of human accomplishments in all aspects of life including the aesthetic.

The program has been targeted by the IHL as a low productivity program because of low number of majors per faculty member and low credit hour production.

We are taking steps to increase the number of music majors by using very aggressive recruiting measures. These measures include, but are not limited to:
1. Visiting the public schools to meet with music teachers and high school students.
2. Auditioning high school students for select performing bands and choirs which perform on our campus with nationally recognized clinicians.
3. Use of a computer program to generate periodic letters sent to interested students.
4. Use of scholarships (including donor sponsored scholarships) to attract talented students.
5. Development of a brochure to use in attracting talented students.
We are pursuing steps to increase our credit hour production. We are proposing a music appreciation course as a requirement for all students at Delta State University as part of the general education curriculum. We are also taking steps to eliminate low enrollment courses. We have suspended admission into our Master of Music Education degree due to low enrollment. Also, the university is correcting some reporting problems which led to numbers which were too low. For Fall 1999, our records show 1338 hours when the IHL report shows 1278. This is not a large number, but when you add in the 327 hours of AMU which were not included in the Board report along with the 27 hours of music methods courses with a CUR prefix the total becomes 1692. The Board lists 16.5 faculty when we have 15. The corrections would give a credit/faculty ratio of 113 which is way above the 77 listed by the Board. The new numbers also would give 5.1 music majors per faculty member. This number is low for Board standards but also, we feel, not realistic when compared nationally with other accredited institutions. For public institutions of 1-100 music majors, the HEADS data published by the National Association of Schools of Music show the 50th percentile number is 6.2 with an average number of 6.3. The highest number listed is the 95th percentile at 10.6.

The Department of Music and its degrees are an integral part of the university, its mission, and its goals. It is a quality program as evidenced by its national accreditation, its quality graduates and its importance in recruiting quality students for all majors at Delta State University. In the meantime, we remain committed to working hard to reach the threshold numbers established by the Board.