

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF MUSIC

11350 ROGER BACON DRIVE, SUITE 21

RESTON, VIRGINIA 20190

TELEPHONE (703) 437-0700

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June 25, 2004

Michael Parkinson
Chair, Department of Music
Webster University
470 East Lockwood Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63119

Dear Professor Parkinson:

The NASM Commission on Accreditation, at its June 2004 meeting, voted to continue Webster University in good standing.

The enclosed *Commission Action Report* is the official record of this action; it includes specific degrees or programs approved and any further requests to your institution from the Commission. A copy of the *Commission Action Report* is being sent to the individuals listed below, along with a notice of NASM policies regarding strict confidentiality.

Please contact the NASM National Office staff if you have questions or need assistance.

This action is taken upon review of Webster University according to accreditation standards in effect in June of 2004. As a member of NASM, the institution is responsible for participating in all revisions and additions to the standards as well as maintaining its curricular programs in the visual arts and design current with NASM standards as these are developed.

The Commission on Accreditation and the Association appreciate your institution's continuing efforts on behalf of music, and look forward to working with you to support advancement of the field.

Please accept our congratulations on behalf of the Association.

With best regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Samuel Hope
Executive Director

SH:kla
Enclosure

cc: Richard S. Meyers, President
Webster University
Karen L. Wolff, President, NASM
Don Gibson, Chair
NASM Commission on Accreditation
Jon R. Piersol, Associate Chair
NASM Commission on Accreditation
Herbert L. Kocerselman, NASM Visitor
Arthur E. Ostrander, NASM Visitor



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.

June 25, 2004

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY
Department of Music

Action:

The Commission voted to accept the response and continue the institution in good standing with the degree listing indicated below.

The Commission also took action regarding new curricula, as outlined elsewhere in this report.

NASM Degree/Program Listing:

- Bachelor of Arts in Music.
- Bachelor of Music in Performance.
- Bachelor of Music in Composition.
- Bachelor of Music Education.
- Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies.
- Master of Arts in Music.
- Master of Music in Performance.
- Master of Music in Composition.
- Master of Music in Music Education.
- Master of Music in Jazz Studies.
- Master of Music in Church Music.*

Next Full Review:

2009-2010 Academic Year

New Curricula:

The Commission voted to accept the response concerning new curricula and grant Final Approval for Listing for the following degree program:

Master of Arts in Music.

Samuel Hope
Executive Director

SH:kla



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.

June 25, 2004

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY
Department of Music

Action:

The Commission voted to accept the response and continue the institution in good standing with the degree listing indicated below.

The Commission also took action regarding new curricula, as outlined elsewhere in this report.

NASM Degree/Program Listing:

Bachelor of Arts in Music.
Bachelor of Music in Performance.
Bachelor of Music in Composition.
Bachelor of Music Education.
Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies.
Master of Arts in Music.
Master of Music in Performance.
Master of Music in Composition.
Master of Music in Music Education.
Master of Music in Jazz Studies.
Master of Music in Church Music.

Next Full Review:

2009-2010 Academic Year

New Curricula:

The Commission voted to accept the response concerning new curricula and grant Final Approval for Listing for the following degree program:

Master of Arts in Music.

Samuel Hope
Executive Director

SH:kla

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July 15, 2003

Professor Michael Parkinson
Chair, Department of Music
Webster University
470 East Lockwood Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63119

Dear Professor Parkinson:

The NASM Commission on Accreditation at its June meetings gave careful consideration to the response in support of the application for renewal of Membership submitted by Webster University.

The Commission voted to acknowledge receipt of the response as an interim response, to continue the current Membership status of the institution, and to seek further information before completing its work with the application. This deferral by the Commission is not a negative action. Rather, it enables consideration of issues and concerns by the institution and the Commission within the framework of the present Self-Study and on-site visit.

The institution is asked to respond to the following concern:

It is not clear that students in the instrumental track of the degree, Bachelor of Music Education, attain "functional knowledge of the voice" (see *NASM Handbook 2003-2004*, page 96, item VIII.J.3.b.[3]). While many of the competencies in music education standards have been changed by recent actions of the Association, this one remains as a standard for all programs in music education.

The response should be submitted by May 1 for consideration at the Commission meetings of June, 2004.

The Commission also voted to continue to defer action on the application for Final Approval for Listing for the degree, Master of Arts in Music, pending receipt of transcripts and other documentation required in the enclosed document, *Policies and Procedures for Reviews of New Curricula*. The Commission notes that transcripts provided were those of students graduating with the degree, Bachelor of Arts in Music, rather than for graduates with the degree, Master of Arts in Music.

The response should be submitted by October 1 for consideration at the Commission meetings of November, 2003, if transcripts are available, or by May 1 for consideration at the Commission meetings of June, 2004.

A document is enclosed outlining procedures for submitting the responses.

**Professor Michael Parkinson
Webster University
July 15, 2003
Page 2**

The Commission expresses appreciation to the institution for its thorough response to other matters raised in the NASM Commission letter of June 27, 2002.

Please contact the NASM National Office staff for further clarification, information, or assistance in responding to issues raised by the Commission.

With best wishes and cordial regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

**Samuel Hope
Executive Director**

**SH:ws
Enclosure**

**cc: Richard S. Meyers, President
Webster University
David Tomatz, President, NASM
Don Gibson, Chair
NASM Commission on Accreditation
Jon Piersol, Associate Chair
NASM Commission on Accreditation
Herbert L. Koerselman, NASM Visitor
Arthur E. Ostrander, NASM Visitor**

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June 27, 2002

Professor Michael Parkinson
Chair, Department of Music
Webster University
470 East Lockwood Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63119

Dear Professor Parkinson:

The NASM Commission on Accreditation at its June meetings gave careful consideration to the response in support of the application for renewal of Membership submitted by Webster University.

The Commission voted to acknowledge receipt of the response and continue the current Membership status of the institution, and to seek further information before completing its work with the application. This deferral by the Commission is not a negative action. Rather, it enables consideration of issues and concerns by the institution and the Commission within the framework of the present Self-Study and on-site visit.

The institution is asked to respond to the following concerns:

1. It is unclear how students enrolled in the degree, Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies, acquire conducting skills. While it is true that the section of the *NASM Handbook* on the Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies degree, as cited in the institution's response, "makes no mention of conducting as a requirement," the *NASM Handbook* does cite conducting in the section listing "Competencies Common to All Professional Baccalaureate Degrees in Music" (see *NASM Handbook 2001-2002*, page 82, item VII.A.4.): "Knowledge and skills sufficient to work as a leader and in collaboration on matters of musical interpretation. Rehearsal and conducting skills are required as appropriate to the particular music concentration." Although the recommendation of the music faculty that Jazz Performance majors take Jazz Education Methods (MUSC 4320) is helpful, that course is nevertheless recommended as an elective, and therefore fails to demonstrate compliance with the NASM standard cited above.
2. It is unclear how students enrolled in the degree, Bachelor of Music Education, acquire functional knowledge of wind, string, and percussion instruments and the voice (see *NASM Handbook 2001-2002*, page 94, item VIII.J.3.b.[3]): "Whatever the specialization, functional knowledge of wind, string, and percussion instruments and the voice is essential."

The Commission notes that a revision to NASM standard VIII.J.3.b.(3) is under consideration by the NASM membership, and scheduled for a vote in November of 2002. A copy of the proposed change is enclosed for your convenience (see *NASM Proposed Handbook Changes—June 2002*, page 2, item VIII.J., Baccalaureate Degrees in Music Education). The institution is encouraged to take into account the action of the membership in November of 2002 in developing its response to these issues.

Professor Michael Parkinson
Webster University
June 27, 2002
Page 2

Although the proposed change would affect the requirement for functional knowledge of wind, string, and percussion instruments for students enrolled in vocal or general tracks of the music education program, it would not obviate the need for such functional knowledge for students intending to teach instrumental music (see *NASM Handbook 2001-2002*, page 95, item VIII.J.3.b.[6][a]).

3. It is unclear how the institution is in compliance with the NASM standard requiring that the Bachelor of Arts in Music degree be "a broad program of general education," given the fact that 27 credits are required in General Education courses with 52 credits (Performance sequence) or 48 credits (Music History sequence) of electives taken in "music or other fields." The institution's response notes that "there is no reference [in the *NASM Handbook*] to any specific 'requirement,' nor to any definition of what the requirement for a 'broad program of general education' might be." The Commission draws the institution's attention to the seven goals for general education outlined in the NASM standards for the liberal arts degree with a major in music (see *NASM Handbook 2001-2002*, page 80, item V.I.A.). Acquiring this knowledge, set of skills, and competencies normally occupy 55% to 70% of the total curriculum. The Commission is concerned about title/content consistency. According to NASM standards and national academic practice, there is a clear distinction between liberal arts degrees, normally titled Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science, and professional degrees, normally titled Bachelor of Music. For a full explanation of these NASM standards, please refer to the *NASM Handbook 2001-2002*, pages 76-78, item IV., especially paragraph two and item B.

The response should indicate how the institution ensures that students enrolled in the liberal arts oriented Bachelor of Arts in Music receive a degree that develops the breadth of knowledge implied by the liberal arts credential. The Commission notes that NASM standards support liberal arts degrees with strong programs in music, and looks forward to receiving the institution's response.

4. The Commission notes with satisfaction the statement in the institution's response (page 5, "NASM Statement 5") that "all undergraduate music education majors must pass a keyboard proficiency examination before they enroll in Student Teaching." The institution is requested to provide written documentation of this requirement (i.e., catalog statement, curricular checkoff list, etc.).

The response should be submitted by May 1 for consideration at the Commission meetings of June, 2003.

The Commission also voted to defer action on the application for Final Approval for Listing for the degree, Master of Arts in Music, pending receipt of transcripts. The enclosed document *Policies and Procedures for Reviews of New Curricula* indicates the procedure for obtaining Final Approval for Listing.

The response should be submitted by May 1 for consideration at the Commission meetings of June, 2003.

A document is enclosed outlining procedures for submitting the responses.

The Commission notes and commends the institution's significant progress in addressing several difficult issues, including matters of facilities and equipment, the implementation of a Music Theory Placement

Professor Michael Parkinson
Webster University
June 27, 2002
Page 3

Examination for all entering freshmen, the development of a mission statement, the addition of more specific Orff and Kodaly courses to the graduate catalog, and continuing discussions of curricular matters. The institution is also commended for its detailed and comprehensive response to Commission concerns.

The Commission also asks the institution to review the Association's policy concerning continuous deferrals (see *NASM Handbook 2001-2002*, pages 36-37, Article IV, Section 5.). The Commission notes that the next consideration of the institution's response will be the third consideration of the application.

Please contact the NASM National Office staff if you need clarification, information, or assistance in responding to the issues raised by the Commission.

With best wishes and cordial regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Samuel Hope
Executive Director

SH:ws
Enclosure

cc: Richard S. Meyers, President
Webster University
David Tomatz, President, NASM
Don Gibson, Chair
NASM Commission on Accreditation
Jon Piersol, Associate Chair
NASM Commission on Accreditation
Herbert L. Koerselman, NASM Visitor
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June 28, 2001

Professor Michael Parkinson
Chair, Department of Music
Webster University
470 East Lockwood Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63119

Dear Professor Parkinson:

The NASM Commission on Accreditation at its June meetings noted the failure of Webster University to submit an annual HEADS report covering the 2000-2001 academic year.

The Commission wishes to remind the institution that submission of the annual report is a responsibility of NASM Membership (see *NASM Handbook 2001-2002*, page 35, Rules of Practice and Procedure, Article III, Section 7). Continued failure to submit annual reports will cause the institution's Membership status to be reviewed.

Your continued attention to the submission of annual reports assists the Association in maintaining a ten-year reaccreditation cycle and in providing statistical services for all members.

With appreciation for your thoughtful consideration, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Samuel Hope
Executive Director

SH:ws

cc: Daniel Sher, Chair
NASM Commission on Accreditation
Don Gibson, Associate Chair
NASM Commission on Accreditation

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December 20, 2000

Professor Michael Parkinson
Chair, Department of Music
Webster University
Saint Louis, MO 63119

Dear Professor Parkinson:

The NASM Commission on Accreditation at its November meetings gave careful consideration to the application for renewal of Membership submitted by Webster University.

The Commission voted to continue the current Membership status of the institution and to seek further information before completing its work with the application. This deferral by the Commission is not a negative action. Rather, it enables consideration of issues and concerns by the institution and the Commission within the framework of the present Self-Study and on-site visit.

The institution is asked to respond to the following concerns:

1. It is not clear how students in the Bachelor of Music in Composition and the Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies degrees acquire proficiency in conducting, analytical techniques, and applicable technologies. The Optional Response (page 9) claims that such skills are gained during two years of undergraduate Music Therapy and Musicianship, as well as in Composition Class and in Music of the Twentieth Century, and that Applicable Technologies and Conducting I "will be passed as [a] degree requirement this fall." The Commission requests confirmation of these plans through appropriate written materials (e.g., class syllabi) and a report on the progress of Applicable Technologies and Conducting I as new degree requirements (see *NASM Handbook 1999-2000*, page 83, Item VIII.C.3.b.).
2. It is not clear how students in the Bachelor of Music Education degree acquire functional knowledge of wind, string, and percussion instruments and the voice. The Optional Response did not indicate how the institution intends to resolve this concern (see *NASM Visitors' Report*, page 12; *NASM Handbook 1999-2000*, page 90, Item VII.J.3.B.(3)).
3. Because concerns about facilities continue to be acute, it is not clear that the institution meets the NASM standard (see *NASM Handbook 1999-2000*, page 62, Item II.F. paragraph 3) stipulating that "facilities and equipment shall be adequate to support faculty needs, all curricular offerings and all students enrolled in them, and be appropriately specialized for advanced work." The Optional Response, pages 6-7, suggests some short-term possibilities without indicating more concrete solutions for the longer term. The Commission requests further consideration that would help resolve this critical issue and permit the institution to meet the NASM standard.

