



AUBURN
UNIVERSITY

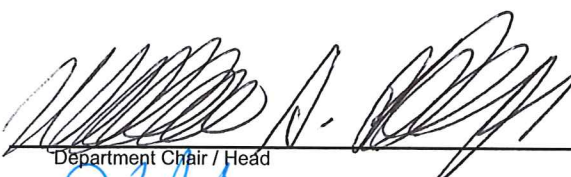
Date: 02/03/2017
(MM/DD/YYYY)

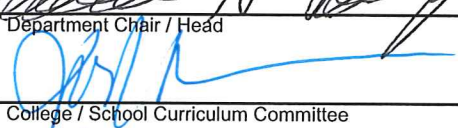
Request To Rename A Department


1. Proposing College / School: College of Liberal Arts
2. Effective Term: Fall 2017
3. Affected CIP Code(s): 50.0501,
4. Department Name (Current): Department of Theatre
4. Department Name (Proposed): Department of Theatre and Dance
5. Rationale for Renaming:
- (For any of the following, please attach specific information pertaining to the need for renaming (e.g.: similar revisions at peer institutions, accreditation, etc.)
- ☐ Department Merger or Realignment Within College/School
 - ☐ Accreditation Standards
 - ☐ Significant Revision to Curricular Focus
 - ☐ Alignment With Current Standards in Job Market, Academic Field
 - ☒ Other (Specify via attached memorandum)

6. Affected Program(s): (Respond "N/A" if not included in any program)	Program Type (e.g.: minor, major, etc.)	Program Title (e.g.: MS in Chemistry, Performance Option, Minor in Art)
	NA	NA

Approvals



Department Chair / Head

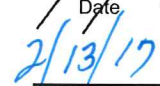

College / School Curriculum Committee



College / School Dean

Dean of the Graduate School (for Graduate Courses)

Assoc. Provost for Undergraduate Studies (for Undergraduate Courses)


Date


Date


Date

Date

Date



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

February 1, 2017

To: Dr. Joseph Aistrup
Dean of the College of Liberal Arts
Through: Charles Israel, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs *CM*
College of Liberal Arts
From: Matthew S. Phillips *MP*
Chair, Department of Theatre
Re: Departmental Name Change

The faculty of The Department of Theatre have voted to change the name of our unit to The Department of Theatre and Dance. The name change was proposed by Professor Adrienne Wilson, who coordinates the department's dance minor and was approved by the faculty with one abstention and no votes in opposition.

Although we have no dance major and do not intend to pursue one, dance has become an increasingly vital aspect of our departmental mission, and an integral and well-established component of the departmental curriculum, not simply an outlet for an occasional elective offering. Since the inception of the dance minor in 2008, we have grown the program from roughly 10 students to 30 declared minors. In addition, many theatre majors also participate in dance courses as well as our annual dance concert. Our Music Theatre program includes extensive study of jazz, tap and ballet which, combined with our modern-based dance minor, covers a broad gamut of dance forms, techniques, and styles.

Please know that this name change is in no way an attempt to lay the groundwork for a dance major. A dance major would require either extensive adjunct support while no qualified pool in our area exists, or the hiring of additional dance lecturer lines, which is not feasible either at this time or in the foreseeable future. However, dance enrollment at Auburn has suffered quite simply because many prospective and current students are unaware that we offer it at all. Dance is currently the only art form on campus that is not directly reflected in the name of a department, and many students interested in dance don't think to check the courses of instruction in the Department of Theatre. By advertising the existence of dance through our departmental name, we hope, not only to draw more students to our dance minor and music theatre track, but to

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underscore and affirm the robust nature of our theatre program as well. There is power in a name: we value the dance program as bringing benefit to the department and its students; we believe in the elevation of the department's identity as a well-rounded and versatile steward of theatre education, which includes among its foundational principles the solid grounding in movement and bodily awareness that dance training affords.

Admittedly, most theatre programs with "dance" in their department names have dance majors, but not all. Theatre programs at institutions such as Florida Atlantic University, Morehead State, University of Kentucky, and University of South Alabama include both "theatre" and "dance" in their department names, despite having no dance major, and institutions such as Austin Peay and University of New Hampshire do so with a BA option or concentration in dance. BA program does not officially offer concentrations or options, but the number of departmental electives to BA students affords them the opportunity to minor in dance, or take dance classes as electives toward the major.

As part of our due diligence, I contacted our accrediting body, The National Association of Schools of Theatre, to see whether there would be any stumbling blocks or accrediting issues if we moved forward with the proposal. NAST confirmed that there is nothing in the association handbook that precludes the name change, nor would it affect our upcoming accreditation renewal bid in 2018-19.

The faculty of the Department of Theatre respectfully request your support in this endeavor.