



SACRAMENTO STATE

# Program Proposal Form B



Academic Group (College): Arts and Letters	Date of Submission to College Dean: August 24, 2009
Academic Organization (Department): Theatre and Dance	Requested Effective: Fall <u>X</u> , Spring __, 2009__.
Department Chair: Dr. Linda S. Goodrich	Contact if not Department Chair: Dr. Melinda D. Wilson, Graduate Coordinator
Title of the Program (Please be specific; indicate minor, undergraduate or graduate degree, etc.): Master of Arts in Theatre	

**Type of Program Proposal:**

- \_\_\_ Modification in Existing Program:
- \_\_\_ Substantive Change
  - \_\_\_ Non-Substantive Change
  - X Deletion of Existing Program

- \_\_\_ New Programs
- \_\_\_ Initiation (Projection) of New Program on to Master Plan
  - \_\_\_ New Degree Programs
    - \_\_\_ Regular Process
    - \_\_\_ Fast Track Process
    - \_\_\_ Pilot Process
  - \_\_\_ New Minor, Concentration, Option, Specialization, Emphasis
  - \_\_\_ New Certificate Program

**PLEASE NOTE:** Form B is to be used only as a Cover Form. Additional information is requested for each of the above as noted in the corresponding procedure in the Policies and Procedures for Initiation, Modification, Review and Approval of Courses and Academic Programs found at <http://www.csus.edu/umannual/acad.htm>

**Briefly describe the program proposal (new or change) and provide a justification.**

Due to university budget restraints, a decrease in faculty numbers, and continuous low enrollment in the program, the Department of Theatre and Dance is no longer able to support the Master of Arts in Theatre graduate degree program. Please see attached for further program discontinuation justification.

**Approvals:**

Department Chair: Linda Goodrich Date: 8-24-09

College Dean: Karen M. Cook Date: 9-2-09

University Committee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Vice President and Dean for Academic Affairs: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

09/10/2008

DATE: August 24, 2009

TO: Ming-Tung Lee  
Associate Vice President and Dean for Academic Programs

FROM: Linda S. Goodrich, Chair  
Department of Theatre and Dance

Melinda D. Wilson, Graduate Coordinator  
Department of Theatre and Dance

RE: **Request for Discontinuation/Deletion of Master of Arts in Theatre Graduate Program**

The following request is being submitted in accordance with the University Policy Manual.

1. **Complete Form B: See Cover Form.**
2. **Reasons for the Program Discontinuation**

The Department of Theatre and Dance requests discontinuation of its Master of Arts in Theatre program because the department no longer has the capacity to support such a program.

First, compared to other graduate programs, the MA in Theatre is smaller in number and given the recent campus economic crises, the increase in applications for admission to the MA in Theatre has been substantially less than in past years. The department suspended admissions to the program during the 2008-2009 academic year in hopes of recruiting a larger cohort of students for the future, but we had less than ten admission inquiries that would make forming a new cohort of students less cost effective and would require further disbursement of faculty resources to maintain the cohort. Even if our program accepted new students every other year, the numbers would not support the University mandates for reduced services and faculty disbursement within the department.

The majority of our MA graduates are seeking programs that support high school and college level teaching positions, which is not the emphasis of the MA in Theatre. Additionally, there are numbers of undergraduate students in the existing major and minor programs, as well as several of our present graduate students, who have professed a desire to focus on acting, directing or design, yet our present degree program maintains a stronger focus on history, literature and criticism, the mainstays of the MA in Theatre degree. The recent increased interest in arts administration is presently beyond the scope of our curriculum and to combine the above focuses would mean substantial time and effort to re-create our graduate program. Given the increased costs of administering courses, this effort is not feasible at this time.

Secondly, over the past four years, the number of theatre and dance faculty has been reduced due to retirement and poor retention of junior faculty. The department does not have the number of tenured faculty to justify investment of the additional workload needed to support the graduate program and under the present hiring freeze, it becomes impossible to make a timely replacement of those who have left the department who would have both academic knowledge, professional experience and exposure to the type of graduate program we offer. Unless there is a substantial change in the economic climate of the CSU system, our department will operate under the present tenured

faculty group. Since hiring adjunct faculty is also becoming more difficult, the instructor base needed to maintain a graduate program decreases further.

While our undergraduate student numbers have increased over the past year alone, the department feels under these circumstances that our combined efforts must be focused on retaining and successfully graduating our undergraduate students.

- 3. Indicate any programmatic or fiscal impact discontinuation of the program will have on other academic units' programs. Describe the consultation that has occurred with affected units.**

The Master of Arts in Theater exists independently of all other academic programs in the Department of Theatre and Dance. Faculty members who utilize graduate students understand that graduate students will no longer be able to serve as teaching assistants for undergraduate courses. Otherwise, discontinuing the program has no programmatic or fiscal impact on the department or its academic units' program.

- 4. Provisions to ensure currently enrolled students have a reasonable opportunity to complete the program.**

At the conclusion of summer semester 2009, ten students remain enrolled in the program. All of them have completed coursework, advanced to candidacy, and are in the process of completing their theses. Our graduate coordinator has also advised them register for "THEA 599-Continuous Enrollment" in order to maintain an active degree program status while completing their degree requirements. Graduate students have three semesters to complete their degrees once they first register for THEA 599. The department hopes that all MA students will complete their degree requirements by the end of summer 2010.

In addition, each student has been assigned a faculty advisor (Dr. Linda Goodrich, Dr. Roberto Pomo, or Dr. Melinda Wilson) whose primary responsibility is to serve as the student's thesis chair by guiding him or her through degree completion. The students, however, are ultimately responsible for meeting with their chair regularly and completing the program within the time allotted by the Office of Graduate Studies.

- 5. Indicate what resources will be freed up or shifted to other programs as the result of the program discontinuation.**

The graduate program's main resource is its faculty. The graduate committee that works directly with the MA in Theatre teaching graduate courses and directing thesis consists of two senior and one junior faculty member: Dr. Linda Goodrich (Department chair), Dr. Roberto Pomo (Honors director) and Dr. Melinda Wilson. Discontinuation of the MA program will allow these members to focus solely on retention and development of the undergraduate program and students' progress towards the bachelor degree, as well as center upon critical and necessary development of the department's curriculum and major and minor coursework. Because the department recently made major changes to the Theatre undergraduate program and developed a Musical Theatre minor program, it is doubly important that our faculty resources be maintained in these areas.

The Evelyn Day Scholarship that was once shared between the Music Department and Theatre and Dance, but has now been split into separate funding sources, is awarded to a graduate student or an undergraduate senior. This scholarship will need to be revised due to this request for discontinuation of the MA program, so the funds will still be available and distributed to students in our undergraduate program.