

MEMORANDUM

Christopher J. Mitchell, Ph.D.
Interim Associate Dean

Phone: 217.581.2922
Fax: 217.581.7085
Email: cjmitchell@eiu.edu

Date: September 29, 2016

To: Dr. Chris Laingen, Chair, Council on Graduate Studies

Re: Request for Executive Action from the Department of Music

Requested Change:

A change in the catalog course description for MUS 5175, “Music Theory Pedagogy,” as described under “Catalog Language Changes” below.

Rationale:

This request is in response to the National Association of Schools of Music Visitors’ Report (March 27-30, 2016). In this report, the visitors cited a need for additional music theory content knowledge in MUS 5175, a required course for the MA in Music, Music Education Concentration. While the course currently includes music theory content, which is then tied to issues of music theory pedagogy, the current course description does not document this aspect of the class.

Catalog Language Changes:

Current Course Description:

This courses focuses on the challenges and opportunities of teaching music theory in a K-12 classroom, recognizing that general students, students participating in ensembles, and students taking pre-college theory, require different kinds of theory instruction and training. The course also surveys current practices, online resources, and learning technologies for teaching music theory in the K-12 classroom.

Proposed Revision:

This course investigates the structure, stylistic characteristics, and compositional techniques of musical compositions and relates them to the challenges and opportunities of teaching music theory in a K-12 classroom. Recognizing that general students, students participating in ensembles, and students taking

pre-college theory all require different kinds of theory instruction and training, the course also surveys current practices, online resources, and learning technologies for teaching music theory.

Approved by College of Arts and Humanities Curriculum Committee:
September 28, 2016.

Effective Year/Term:
Fall 2016