

## **RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE DANCE DEPARTMENT IN THE HUNTER COLLEGE SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES**

RESOLVED, that effective spring semester 2016, the Hunter College Department of Dance shall be established in the School of Arts & Sciences as part of the Division of Humanities & Arts with all of the rights and responsibilities of a department at Hunter College.

### **Explanation:**

The Hunter College Dance Program was established in fall 1970 within the Department of Physical Education. In 1976, it was transferred to the Music Department, where it has been housed to the present. The program will be elevated to the status of a department, offering degrees at the undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as opportunities for non-major undergraduates to take dance courses and pursue a minor. The expansion will include the activation of a previously approved MFA program in Dance that will dramatically increase the visibility of the new department across the world of professional dance in New York City and beyond. The Hunter College Department of Dance will become the first independent dance department at the City University of New York.

Although the Dance Program has operated with substantial autonomy within the Music Department, the scope of the program is appropriate for a freestanding academic department. Dance currently offers two degrees, the BA and the BA/MA. While the MA is in Dance Education, Dance has subject content and advising responsibilities for the Arnhold Graduate Dance Education Program. The advent of the MFA program will add to Dance a third degree. The Department of Dance will house more degree programs than do most departments in the School of Arts and Sciences.

Student interest in Dance at the undergraduate and graduate levels is strong. The newly renovated Dance studios in Thomas Hunter are busy from early morning through evening with scheduled classes and are used weekends as well by students practicing and preparing for upcoming performances. Dance enrolls more than 1,350 students each academic year, up from about 1,175 in 2010-2011; in that period, the number of majors has increased from 55 to 75-80. The Arnhold Graduate Dance Education Program has grown rapidly and now enrolls more than 60 students, only four years after its initial entering class. The Arnhold Program has started to produce dance teachers for the city's public schools where dance has become a vibrant field of study, and it now attracts applicants with significant careers in dance.

Hunter College has made a strong commitment to a robust Dance Department, including a successful national search for a new program head who will become the department chair. In addition, the college has invested in state-of-the-art flooring for the main dance studios in Thomas Hunter, an upgrade that will greatly enhance the quality and safety of students' dance experience.

### The Dance Faculty

The dance faculty consists of five persons, four of whom are on professorial lines and one of whom is a Distinguished Lecturer. All five of the dance faculty, formerly members of the Music Department, will be moved to the new Department of Dance. .

### *Transfer of Faculty and Seniority*

Within the next week the provost will meet with the faculty members who will constitute the new department to explain to them the implications of their transfer. When new academic units form, all tenured and tenure-track faculty members reset their seniority to zero in the new unit. Under most circumstances this has no practical effect. However, in the highly unlikely event of retrenchment in the unit, the faculty members would share the same seniority, regardless of their original date of appointment. This will be explained to the faculty members who are being transferred to the Dance Department<sup>i</sup>

The chair of the Music Department, Professor Suzanne Farrin, has indicated that Music has no objection to the separation of Dance and the formation of the new department.

### *Commitment to Reach Minimum Faculty Size*

In accordance with CUNY by-laws that set the minimum size of an academic department P&B at five voting members, the administration confirms its intention to expand the Dance Department to five eligible members (tenure-track/CCE eligible) as quickly as college resources permit

### *Budget Support*

The Dance Program has operated with its own budget within the Music Department. These resources will be transferred for the use of the new Dance Department. We believe these resources are sufficient for the academic program of the new unit, and anticipate no claim on resources that would come at the expense of other academic units.

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