

As a result of our assessment work over the course of the past year we have made some changes that we believe will have significant impact on our program. We have begun the process of implementing a portfolio-based program using the software package LiveText. We have identified the signature assignments in our program that we want to track over time and use to assess student learning. We have spent a great deal of time developing rubrics to capture what we think are the key elements of our program that we will use to score these assignments and develop long-term data. We have also realized that we have not contacted our alumni in many years and need to solicit their feedback on our program. Our study indicates that we need to expand our offerings in commercial and popular music and music technology. We have identified ways in which we are not using our ensembles effectively for recruiting and program development. We have identified ways in which we can more effectively assess private instruction in music and ensembles that will use a combination of concert reviews, assessment by outside evaluators

Our assessment efforts over the past year have included both student evaluations of courses using the IDEA form as well as survey data that was gleaned from students and parents in our after school program. Results were tabulated, then shared with the faculty and the Program Director of the after-school program. New goals were developed, a document was developed over a number of weeks and ongoing assessment is taking place to ensure we hit our goals. We also met as a faculty to talk over assessment at the end of the Spring semester in which we developed targets for the upcoming year.

The faculty review assessment data each semester and evaluate both the results of the data and the efficacy of the process. However, our process has changed drastically and we are virtually starting a new process. The 2012-13 year will, in many ways, provide baseline data from which we will begin measuring. Our plan is to discuss this data at the end of each semester and develop plans based on what we find. Our goal is to begin reshaping our program immediately. Based on what we see at this point, we feel that we need to become more efficient as a department, leverage the ability of our large ensembles to recruit, expand our offerings in contemporary and commercial music, increase our holdings and offerings in music technology, consider eliminating or reducing our offerings in programs whose enrollments have dropped and increase the number of music majors in our programs.

We are planning on rolling out a portfolio-based model for assessment over the course of the next two years. At the end of two years we will expect each of our students to understand the process of maintaining a portfolio, which assignments are required to be uploaded and how they will be scored. We have developed a process whereby all of our ensembles will maintain ongoing assessment of their work and performances through a combination of reviews, outside evaluators, festival adjudication and our own internal evaluation. Our plan is to assess our courses on a three-year rotation.