

## SRJC Theatre Arts Department Career Education (CE) Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 29, 2024

Revised April 12, 2024

Prepared by: Shannon Jaeger

Begin 9:05am

**In Attendance via Zoom.** No in-person meeting.

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SRJC Faculty and Staff:

Elizabeth Dale, Shannon Jaeger, Leslie McCauley, Kyle McHarris, James Newman, Justin Smith, Coleen Scott Trivett

Advisory Board Members:

Peter Callendar, Derek Duarte, Laxmi Kumara, Brent Lindsay

Guests:

Austin Manning, Debbie Webber

SRJC Support Staff Members:

Beatriz Camargo, Mackenzie Galindo, Kim Kinahan, Rachel Pernochen, Megan Rhodes

Advisory Board Member not in attendance:

Frank Sarmiento

### Welcome and Introductions

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Justin Smith welcomes everyone.

Meeting called to order.

2022.2023 advisory board meeting minutes approved.

Introductions

### Announcements

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2024.2025 Theatre Arts Season show selection:

All in the Timing, Six One Act Plays

The Rocky Horror Show

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Rumors

The season was announced to students on Thursday, March 28. Beginning to use Discord for communicating with students.

Coleen asked about the success of the 2023.2024 shows. Justin replied that the shows were all well received and that he and Shannon are still processing the financial report.

Debra Weber asked why the show *As You Like It* was cancelled. Justin explained that because James Newman is out on medical leave the show did not have a director. But as a result, many theatre students have created a club and are producing their own show *Much Ado About Nothing*, and will be staging several public performances. This is fantastic opportunity for students. Comments that this is impressive and appreciate the students' initiative.

## **Faculty and Staffing Updates**

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Due to the college cancelling the Summer Repertory Theatre (SRT) program, James Newman and Shannon Jaeger were transferred to the Theatre Arts Department. James is currently out on medical leave but plans to be back in the fall.

The position of Costume Shop Technician will be posted for hiring soon. Hoping to expand the job from 18 hours per week to 25 hours per week. Job description is being updated. Need to have staffed by the start of the new academic year (August 2024).

Leslie McCauley shared that there is a very good group of students in the department now. Justin Smith stated that there is a very strong musical theatre course this semester.

## **Public Comments**

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Derek Duarte announce that he is retiring from Santa Clara University. There will be an opening for a lighting instructor at the college as a result. Will be accepting minimal qualifications.

Peter Callendar mentioned that the African-American Shakespeare Company is always looking for good people and that the company is a good place for people starting out. Many opportunities, in particular stage managers.

Laxmi Kumara shared that UC Berkeley students have started a club called Backstage.

Austin Manning announced that there are 7 open theatre-related positions at his school. He believes that overall the industry is struggling to develop good candidates.

Leslie McCauley said that changing demographics are influencing the reduction in theatre students at SRJC. The area is very expensive and an increasing older population. There is only so much the department can do to attract new students, especially high school students, in these circumstances.

**Unfinished Business.** Tabled to save time for those who have leave early.

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## **New Business Discussion**

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Discussion of new certificates and revising old ones.

Justin Smith: SRJC Theatre Arts is under program review. We have a robust certificate program but being asked to restructure the certificates to include some that are “building blocks” requiring fewer units to complete. Justin and Coleen are tasked with this. Discussion ensued about what other programs are doing. Concern about requiring Intro to Acting in technical theatre certificates as many student shy away from acting and do not take the course, subsequently unable to complete the certificates. Suggested that 3 categories of certificates be created: Technical, Performance, Event Management. Current certificates require completion of 32 core units. Being asked to create certificates of 16-18 units. Allows students to complete more easily and allows them to complete multiple certificates with different emphasis.

Kim Kinahan suggests adding the option to take an independent study course that could be used for internships. Leslie McCauley asks committee for feedback. Including Intro to Acting has been a

philosophical choice and understands why it is a challenge for technical students, but also has concerns that the acting class enrollments will decline if the option is removed.

Debbie Weber asks if the students go from a certificate to completing an AA degree. Leslie responding that many students do both as they have to complete so many classes for either. Debbie Weber also asks why World Theatre class is only offered 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. This is due to it being an academically challenging class and concerns about new students taking it their first semester.

Rachel Pernochen provides an explanation of Career Education and how the Chancellor's office determines certificates.

Laxmi Kumara asks if we are looking at this from the perspective of the job market, a transfer to a 4-year college, or to get an internship? Suggests that offering performance-related courses instead of Intro to Acting as an alternative.

Coleen Scott Trivett notes that certificates provide a line on a resume and could enable students to get entry level positions in the field.

Justin Smith states that the larger certificates will still be available, but the smaller ones allow for flexibility within a shorter time frame. And the smaller ones can be built upon to achieve the larger ones – stepping stones. Would also encourage completion because it won't take as long.

Austin Manning mentioned a 1-unit class he took which was Theatre Ensemble. Was a good mix of both acting and technical students who learned from each other and build relationships. Coleen Trivett would like to know more about this course. Austin also suggests a diction class as an alternative.

Derek Duarte points out that not all students go on to 4-year universities and it is important to provide basic training for entry level employment.

Justin Smith calls a vote: Is it worthwhile for the SRJC Theatre Arts department to explore creating smaller certificates in conjunction with the larger certificates?

Derek Duarte moves to vote. Only advisory board members can vote. Vote is unanimous in favor and carries.

Voted yes: Peter Callendar, Derek Duarte, Laxmi Kumara, Brent Lindsay

### **Internship Recommendations**

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Justin Smith asks for suggestions for internships programs to recommend to students. Derek Duarte suggests Western Stage. Megan Rhodes explains that there is a new program that reimburses employers up to 90% of internship wages. More information available on SRJC Career Hub website. Justin Smith announces that a replacement board member for Derek Duarte due to his retirement.

Leslie McCauley mentions that the department will be doing an Associate Faculty hiring. Please encourage interested parties to apply this spring.

Adjourn 10:30am