PROGRAM INFORMATION

Date submitted: 6/1/11

Degree Program(s): Bachelor of Arts in Dance
Department: Music and Dance

Department Chair: Dr. Edward C. Harris
Phone: 4-4677

Report Prepared by: Fred Mathews, Dance Coordinator
Phone: 4-5044

Next Self-Study due : Spring 2013
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Note: Schedule is posted at: http://www.sjsu.edu/ugs/programplanning/

ARCHIVAL INFORMATION

Location: WSQ 104D
(Bldg/Room #)

Person to Contact: Fred Mathews 4-5044
(Name) (Phone)

Assessment schedule is posted at http://www.sjsu.edu/ugs/assessment
Please send any changes to the schedule or to student learning outcomes to Jackie Snell jacqueline.snell@sjsu.edu

Enter the number and text of the SLO in this box (we post reports by SLO)

#6 Ability in performing areas consistent with the goals and objectives of the specific liberal arts degree programs being followed and appropriate to the individual’s needs and interests.

Initial Evidence of Student Learning:

[Spring/Fall 2010] Students were assessed in performance in the Spring and Fall of 2010 in the capstone requirement in the major, two to three performances of a fully produced solo piece choreographed by a professional with costume and lighting. Also included was performance by student in works for from 2-4 dancers in the fully produced final project of Choreography III and results from Modern II and Jazz II. Showings for Choreography III were not included as there was only one BA student in that class, who subsequently was admitted to the BFA program. This report represents a three semester focus on this learning objective.

Change(s) to Curriculum or Pedagogy:

[Fall 2005/Spring 2010] The dance faculty is in a constant state of discussion about the effectiveness of the program and addressing ways to increase the quality of the education we provide. We feel that the success of our students in performance is attributable to a series of changes over the past few years. As noted in the last report, we continue to see the results of improved performance due to the addition of Danc 43, Dance Improvisation, to the required curriculum in Fall 2009. Other improvements include the institution of informal showings of student choreography, at least six opportunities over a two semester
period in Choreography I and II, wherein each student performs a solo of their own choreography. They also learn and perform the choreography of another student in a large group situation and perform in a structured improvisation, as well. The result of this is twofold, in that this experience increases their ability to translate the movement ideas of another into their own instrument. Also, they are required to relate both spatially and contextually with other performers. In Fall 2010, a new study was added to Choreography II. Each student is now required to choreograph a “site specific” work at a place of their choice on campus. Their audience is any person who happens by, a less controlled environment than in a theatre. Next semester this project will include collaboration with a video student, and will expand the dance students experience in performance before a camera. In addition, those who elect to take Choreography III perform a fully produced solo of their own choreography at the end of the semester. Each will also have given three informal performances, one of which takes place in the Music Concert Hall as part of a collaboration project with a music student.

Every semester in technique classes the student is required to “perform” movement sequences given by the instructor. There is, of course, great variety in the context of modern and jazz styles. Dance is a performing art and dance technique is at its core. It is expected that each BA candidate should achieve advanced intermediate level in the technique of their choice by their final semester. Most in fact achieve advanced level in one and sometimes two areas from among modern and jazz.

There are many other factors involved in the development of student performance effectiveness. The program sponsors two performance companies, membership by audition only, for the more advanced dancer. These students have the opportunity to work with both faculty and guest choreographers. In the last two years our student performers have been recognized for their excellence in performance at the American College Dance Festival, a regional event that hosts most of the prominent university and college dance programs in our five state area. These companies also perform each semester.

Each semester there is a concert choreographed by advanced student choreographers and performers are selected from among the ranks our major population.

In 2005, sjDANCEco became the resident company of the School of Music and Dance. We have seen the impact of professional choreographers and performers has had on our students, through the opportunities they have to interact with them and to watch professionals in their medium.

Evidence of Student Learning after Change.

(Spring 2011) The faculty was in enthusiastic accord that the great majority of students involved in these productions were excelling relative to the goals and objectives of the program and that the above changes in the program have contributed to that end.