SUBJECT: Request to Seek Accreditation – SDSU

South Dakota State University has submitted a request to seek accreditation for their Theater program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Approve SDSU’s request to seek accreditation for their Theater program.
1. Institution: South Dakota State University

2. Program(s) seeking accreditation: Theatre

3. Level of program(s) involved in accreditation:
   - Certificate
   - Associate Degree
   - Bachelor's Degree
   - Master's Degree
   - Doctoral Degree
   [X] Bachelor's Degree


   *NOTE: Use additional pages if needed to address the following questions.*

5. What are the advantages of accreditation?
   N.A.S.T. accreditation confirms the program meets or exceeds nationally recognized standards for all aspects of the Bachelor’s Degree in Theatre. The self-study process necessitates faculty and staff to closely examine and reflect upon curricular, programmatic, budgetary and pedagogical aspects of the program. Accreditation enhances the reputation of the program and communicates a high quality program to current and prospective students.

6. What are the anticipated costs involved in accreditation, including:
   A) Costs involved in undergoing self-study and preparing the application for accreditation.
      - As an orientation to accreditation, the Director of Theatre (Prof. Ackman) attended the 2012 N.A.S.T. Annual Meeting and Retreat for Administrators of Theatre Programs in Higher Education. The experience was invaluable and Prof. Ackman will attend the 2013 meeting to continue to develop his understanding of accreditation standards and process. The estimated cost for Prof. Ackman to attend the 2013 meeting is $2500.00

   B) Out-of-pocket costs related to dues or site visits.
      - Based on the expenses incurred for the preliminary evaluative N.A.S.T. visit the estimate for the expense of the accreditation team site visit is $3,500.00
      - The N.A.S.T. application fee is $400.00
      - Once the program is accredited, the annual N.A.S.T. dues are $1,242.00

   C) Base budget implications including incremental costs and minimum base resources required (dollars and FTE).
      - In April 2012, a N.A.S.T. consultant visited SDSU to examine the current program and develop a set of preliminary recommendations. A Scene Shop Supervisor must be added prior to accreditation at an estimated annual cost of $30,000 plus fringe benefits.
7. What is the source of the resources needed?

- The Director of Theatre travel to N.A.S.T will be covered by Academic Excellence funds.
- The self-study process will be considered a portion of the Director of Theatre's workload.
- The accreditation team site visit will be covered by Academic Excellence funds.
- The ongoing N.A.S.T. dues will be covered by the College of Arts and Sciences budget.
- The Scene Shop Supervisor position must be funded through university resources.

8. What is the estimated date for submission of accreditation application?

- What follows is the estimated accreditation process timeline recommended by Karen Moynihan, N.A.S.T. Associate Director:

  December 2012 – With BOR approval, file “Intent to seek accreditation” paperwork, as well as an “Application for Membership” form. Once acknowledged (there is no formal approval), an evaluation team will be formed by N.A.S.T. and the self-study process may commence.

- While there is no specific timeline required, the following two-year process is recommended on the evaluation team is formed:

  Month 1 – Make writing assignments with the Theatre staff
  Month 2 – Begin writing and compiling self-study documents
  Month 16 – Confirm all logistics for accreditation team
  Month 20 – Produce preliminary draft of self-study
  Month 21 – Finalize self-study document
  Month 22 – Submit self-study document to N.A.S.T. national office
  Month 24 – Host accreditation team (team visit must be during a major theatre production). It is anticipated that the site visit will take place February of 2015 in conjunction with State University Theatre’s February production.

[Signature]
Institutional Authorization (President)

9-14-12
Signature Date

Document Date: 9/14/2012