

MINUTES
MIRA Advisory Committee
12.2.2021 – Virtual, 05:00pm

Date of Meeting: 12.2.2021

Members Present: Brad Berridge, Janette Berrios, Damon Dougherty, Patrick Hernly, Barbara Hubbard, Nathan Muehl, Sara Sabourin

Members Excused:

Others present:

Call to order: 05:00pm

Previous Minutes Approved:

Motion by:

Second by:

Unfinished Business:

Program Updates: We are making a substantial effort to promote internal and external awareness of our Music and MIRA programs. This includes the creation of a MIRA Playlist (<http://stpe.co/MIRAMusic>) and weekly postings within our internal organizational newsletter the Blue and White.

Muehl has spoken with Steve Swenson about leveraging his substantial list of contacts to grow our committee. The goal would be to hire people with immediate job openings, see what kind of skills they are looking for, and how we can use that information for student benefit.

Our newly revamped curriculum appears to be going well. Our new Orientation course has proved to be very insightful for us, and helpful for the students. We have noticed many of these students collaborating already outside of class because they had the opportunity to meet one another and students are making these connections earlier.

We showed them our list of elective offerings and asked them if they wanted to take more classes than is required, and the majority of them said they would even if they were not covered by financial aid. Of those that said they wouldn't, most of them said it was because of financial reasons. We are hoping to utilize this survey data to create potential scholarship or donor opportunities. This helps us tell the story that there are students interested in taking extra classes but that they have a financial aid barrier preventing them from doing so.

Subcommittee Reports:

Student Update: Held our Creative Career Summit and Emerging Artist Showcase on Nov. 29th. It has proven to be an invaluable experience for all involved, and we believe it is critical to our program. Hernly is proud to have a collegiate contemporary music ensemble that treats it with a degree of seriousness.

Career Outreach Specialist: Sabourin encourages all committee members to engage with our students by hosting a talk, participating in a career fair, or present during a speaker series.

New Business:

Industry Updates & Discussion: Berridge views a MIRA graduate as in competition with some of the trade schools such as Full Sail or Chillicothe. He believes that a strong baseline of fundamentals skills ranging from how to coil a cable to the physics of sound would set them apart. Muehl says that we may be exploring a skills exam to verify student competencies through a demonstration.

Program Needs: Dougherty has a long-term goal of securing a venue that is entirely student-run while partnering with other areas of the college to provide a laboratory of experiential learning. Berrios endorses the idea and says it would go a long way to encourage new students, develop current student's performance skills, and promote the program as a whole.

We are continually looking to expand the board members

Adjournment: 06:00pm

Secretary:

