

MINUTES
MIRA ADVISORY COMMITTEE
5.26.21 - Virtual

Date of Meeting:

May 26, 2021

Members Present: Phil Benito, Brad Berridge, Janette Berrios, Ban Byers, Wilfred Bo Garrard, Patrick Hernly, Barbara Hubbard, Nathan Muehl, Sara Sabourin, Ajori Spencer, Steve Swenson, Jesse Vance

Members Excused: Samer Jaber

Others present:

Call to order: 1:05pm

Previous Minutes Approved:

Motion by:

Second by:

Unfinished Business:

Program Updates: The MIRA curriculum has undergone an update and will go live this upcoming Fall semester 0590. It makes the pathway more efficient, opens up elective opportunities to students, adds a mandatory orientation course, and requires all students to take the Live Sound Reinforcement and Live Sound Internship courses. We are offering 2 capstone courses in either Live Event Management or Studio Recording. We have also secured support from CARES act and the Perkins grant which has allowed us to upgrade a lot of our equipment.

A lot of our graduates end up taking gig-type work in the Tampa Bay area as performers, recording, or the live event field, we are looking to find more opportunities for our students.

Subcommittee Reports:

Student Update:

Career Outreach Specialist: Sabourin offers numerous ways for committee members to work with our students. Workshops, career-readiness activities such as resume building, interview tips, and networking, speaking and workshop presentations. Special topic seminars would be welcomed. Please contact Sara Sabourin or Pat Hernly for more details.

New Business:

Jeanne Reynolds has retired. Ajori Spencer has assumed her former role and joined our committee.

Industry Updates & Discussion: SPC is seeking feedback to keep our curriculum relevant and find pathways to drive opportunities for employment. Hernly asks for feedback regarding our curriculum changes and industry trends.

Berridge says that he has been seeing a lot of sound people transitioning into setting up corporate Zoom recordings. Says that the people who had studio editing experience are the ones that had the highest demand. He is also seeing that people with rudimentary signal flow experience transition very well to all digital systems, which will soon be the norm. Networking acumen and Dante Certifications are highly desirable. His company has done research and shown that demand for live events is likely to double, and that lots of work will be available. Has contacts with Cedar Fair that he may be able to tap.

Berrios says that they would like to see more coursework in music business, legal issues, copyright publishing, marketing, and artist development and management. Symphonic Distribution prioritizes music industry intention and interest in their applicants.

Byers would like to see guidance regarding the general education requirements within the MIRA orientation course. Based on his experience with interns he is seeing a lack of overall signal flow and patch bay knowledge. Would like to see students with experience in building and installing systems from scratch. He is also renting his larger studio to some people and this method could be viable in the future for people who can't afford a lot of gear and a building at one time.

Vance is glad that we are making the Live Sound course mandatory. He is seeing a lot of work within the field of stage management A1, A2 especially in the field of TV broadcast. Says a lot of that work isn't going anywhere and we are already doing some of that training at the Palladium. Agrees with Byers in that students should have experience building and installing a system from scratch, including loading software and installing drivers and firmware updates. Says a lot of the industry is going digital and recommends more IT, and networking experience.

Swenson thanks everyone for lending their time to meeting and suggests creating a sharepoint file where we can pool resources and contacts across industries.

Program Needs:

Adjournment: 2:00pm

Wilfred Bo Garrard

Secretary

