

LTC12D039

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Issue

A progress report on latest developments/activities within the School of Music arising from the meeting of the Music Monitoring Group on 6 November 2012.

Further Information

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Discussion

The report is for information only and no discussion is anticipated.

Background

The University established a Music Monitoring Group which is chaired by the PVC Academic and oversees developments and activities in the School of Music leading up to its closure in summer 2014. This group consists of academic and administrative members of staff at UEA as well as student representatives and discusses pertinent issues relating to the student experience in the School of Music.

Report of the Meeting of the Music Monitoring Group on 6 November 2012.

The following items were considered by the Music Monitoring Group and are here presented for the Learning and Teaching Committee's information:

1) Staffing

- (a) The School of Music had replaced Dr Simon Waters with two new members of staff, Sebastian Lexer and Bill Thompson. Both had previously been employed as Associate Tutors within the School and therefore had significant knowledge of the School and modules offered to students.
- (b) Dr Jonathan Impett would be leaving UEA at the end of the calendar year. The School had advertised an 18 months ATR post to replace Dr Impett ensuring his teaching was covered appropriately.
- (c) Mr Stephen Bennett would replace Dr Impett as Teaching Director in the School from January 2013.
- (d) Simon Limbrick's contract would be increased to a full-time post from January 2013.
- (e) Mrs Lorraine Whiting had been appointed on a 0.8 FTE basis until 31 July 2014 and will be providing dedicated administrative support as a member of the LTS Arts hub to the School of Music.
- (f) Additional teaching appointments would result in the School being able to offer a better staff:student ratio as well as additional modules in year 3 to ensure that remaining undergraduate students will be able to have an excellent student experience.
- (g) Arrangements were currently made to ensure continued supervision of existing PGR students to enable them to complete their postgraduate research degrees.

2) School and University Activities

- (a) It was reported that the School of Music continued to be active in organising concerts, seminar talks and taking part in collaborations with the School of Drama and the School of Film and Television. All these activities pointed to a vibrant School culture and a determination to "go out on a high" despite impending closure.
- (b) Members of the Group expressed concern at negative reporting in Concrete about the closure of the School of Music. It was agreed that such bad press should be counteracted by actively promoting events held in the School of Music in the local press and social media sites such as Facebook. The student representative would explore how Music events could be highlighted to the wider community using appropriate media and e-bulletins. In addition, the School would enlist the help of the UEA Press Office to publicise Music events appropriately.

3) Scholarships and Music Endowments post closure

The School of Music currently holds a number of endowments which fund scholarships for current students and the Faculty Manager was in the process of establishing precise details of funds and allocation periods. It is hoped that these funds can continue to be used to support scholarships for students who will continue to participate in the University Orchestra and Choir after the School has closed. In some cases it may be necessary to consult the Charity Commission for clarification of legitimate allocation of such endowments. Further information is expected to be available at a future meeting of the Music Monitoring Group in spring 2013.

4) Student re-presentation

The School's Staff Student Liaison Committee was meeting on a regular basis to ensure that students had a forum to discuss any concerns. Academic and administrative staff were also keen that students could approach them immediately as concerns arose and would ensure that any grievances/issues would be dealt without delay.