

Appendix K

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Music in Jazz Studies Degree at NC Central University

Introduction

NC Central University requests authorization to establish a Master of Music in Jazz Studies degree (CIP 50.0999) effective August 2008.

Program Description

This program will admit students with demonstrated competence in jazz that will enable them to advance their skills in performance, composition, arranging, technology, research and pedagogy. The goal of the program is to produce graduates who are highly competitive and competent in their field and thus become effective contributors and shapers of the music, arts and education communities. Their work will in turn continue to help the NCCU Music Department promote greater understanding of the history and traditions of African-American and Western-European music and the rich diversity among the world's music. The program focuses on performance and composition/arranging with an emphasis on music technology, business of music, and competence in music engineering. The 33-semester hour program is designed to produce performers, composers, as well as university and public school educators with comprehensive skills in jazz studies.

Program Need

The Master's program will be an extension of the successful undergraduate jazz studies program, which has sent 65 percent of its graduates to graduate programs over the last five years. The program would serve a growing need in North Carolina and beyond for advanced, technologically informed graduate-level training in jazz performance, arranging and composition. The professional marketplace now requires musical knowledge above and beyond the traditional musical pedagogy accepted in the last century. Secondary and college level educational institutions are increasingly seeking music educators with jazz proficiency. In addition, jazz study cultivates the skills necessary for success in a growing number of media-related fields such as scoring for film, television, and computer animation. The program will contribute to music scholarship through its interaction with the NCCU African American Jazz Caucus Research Institute.

Resources

The new additions to the B.N. Duke Auditorium Complex will provide excellent facilities to support the undergraduate and graduate jazz studies programs. Library holdings are being augmented to include advanced technological learning aids, research capacity, and audio-visual resources. The program will strengthen NCCU's ability to attract funding partners. Existing faculty, including adjunct instructors, will be sufficient to cover classes in the initial years of the program.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the NCCU request to establish a Master of Music in Jazz Studies degree (CIP 50.0999) effective August 2008.