

Report of the Commission Music in General Education – January 27, 2020

Following the approval of the executive committee to modify its charge, the commission focused on topics related to curriculum issues affecting transferability, articulation agreements, and proficiency examinations.

Representatives of 2-year institutions shared the difficulty of creating pathways to multiple 4-year schools whose curricular models differ. That begged the question of the responsibility of 4-year institutions to respond to the FOS and ACGM. There is a difference of approach ranging from altering curriculum to meet the ACGM to expecting 2-year colleges to send students prepared for the existing curriculum at the receiving institution.

A wide-ranging discussion led to a variety of tactics and options to ease transferability. Particular attention was given to how receiving institutions understand the precise meaning of ‘core complete’ and how the music literature/music history transfers. Suggestions included the feasibility of creating a mandatory course numbering system, encouraging 4-year institutions to adopt the numbering mandated by the ACGM, and adhering to the course outcomes stipulated in the ACGM.

The commission recognized the need to go beyond a correspondence of course numbers to basic curricular content. Recognizing the inherent difficulty of reconciling a move toward standardized content with institutional prerogative to design curriculum, the discussion led to middle ground solutions. One suggestion would encourage 4-year institutions to clearly indicate where they meet course outcomes outlined in the ACGM. That would allow each 2-year college to identify with which senior institutions they most closely align, creating a feeder-system model.

The conclusion of the conversation suggests that TAMS might offer guidance on strategies that will encourage both public and private 4-year institutions to create opportunities for transferability by becoming aware of the mandates of the ACGM.

The commission will propose an amendment to the TAMS Bylaws to change the name of the commission to reflect its current focus.