

## **TAMS 4 Year Private Institution Roundtable**

**January 22, 2021**

**2:00pm**

**Lantana Room, Hilton Austin Airport**

Present: Justin Hodges, Paul Sikes, Ann Stutes, Kristen Queen, Paul Cortese, Laurie Doyle, Rick Piersall, Doug Boyer, Matt Roberson

DISCUSSION:

### **Enrollment/Recruiting**

Paul Sikes opened the session by sharing concerns related to recruiting for the Fall 21 semester. Many shared this concern. While current enrollments for most institutions appear stable or show growth, concerns of attracting students for next year is a concern. Paul Sikes shared that his institution is hosting faculty-led workshops in order to be able to work with prospective music students. Others shared that campus policy is still not allowing any off-campus visitors, including prospective students. Many music units have increased the number and rate of phone calls and emails to prospective students.

### **TMEA College Night/Reunions**

The discussion of recruiting transitioned to TMEA College Night and Reunions. Paul Sikes (TMEA College VP) shared relevant information about College Night and TMEA's efforts to reach a broader audience of prospective students. Ideas were also shared of how to effectively group reunion participants into virtual breakout rooms by graduation years or by division.

### **COVID**

The ongoing issue of COVID-19 policies and practice by institutions was introduced. Several shared that Fall 2020 data evidenced that the wearing of masks, and other precautions taken in the classroom, studio, and ensemble rehearsals, have been very successful with no reported COVID transmissions traced from these settings. However, great concern remains that transmission will continue through student's off-campus and community interactions. Also noted was an increased level of student and faculty COVID "fatigue."

### **BUDGET/FINANCING**

Several institutions reported that significant operating budget cuts have already been announced. Other institutions indicated that cuts going into Fall 21 are inevitable, while specifics related to the cuts are yet to be determined. Several others also indicated budget concerns specifically related to both full-time faculty and adjunct line items.

Considering the inevitable negative public-school music program repercussions (possible financial cuts, program cuts, enrollment challenges, etc.) due to COVID, Paul Sikes encouraged all to begin brainstorming ideas on how we can consider moving forward in the most positive way we can. We must encourage public school students to remain involved in their school music programs. We must immediately engage schools, trying to get back physically on local

campuses as soon as it is safe to do so to interact and rebuild fac-to-face relationships with our local music students. Considering the university programs, Paul Cortese shared the idea of expanding music minor options (perhaps developing minors not based strictly on performance areas or ensemble experiences) to engage future students who are not music majors. One participant stated that community involvement and interest in community music ensembles and programs remains high.

### **CLINICAL TEACHERS**

Concerns over Clinical Teaching experiences were shared related to clinical teachers testing positive for COVID, or having to be quarantined, and how this is creating concern related to completing the Clinical Teaching requirement. Others shared that several cooperating teachers have been absent or quarantined which has provided a significant and very positive first- and second-week teaching experience, and opportunities for clinical teachers to “step-up” and be fully in charge of lessons right at the onset of the semester. Rick Piersall voiced another shared concern relating to clinical teaching, that of addressing practicum or observation placements during the semester(s) prior to student teaching. The challenge of placing students into local school districts when many are still restricting any on-campus visitors has been significant.

As the roundtable concluded, members indicated a desire to continue periodic virtual meetings for continued discussion and support.

Meeting adjourned at 3:12pm.