

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

***SPECIAL PROGRAM FEES
FEE REQUEST***

College/School: College of Fine Arts (Colleges of Letters, Arts & Sciences)

Department: School of Dance

Program: Master of Fine Arts in Dance

Is this a graduate or an undergraduate program fee?

GRADUATE PROGRAM **X**

Is this a new fee or an increase to an existing fee?

NEW FEE XX Amount requested: **\$600 per academic year**

BACKGROUND:

Previous differential tuition or program fees: The program fee request is new. No other differential tuition or program fees exist for graduate students in dance, and none have existed in the history of the program as it has moved from physical education to a Committee on Dance in the School of Music, to a fully autonomous Division in the School of Music and Dance, and finally to its current state as a School of Dance. On the graduate level, the UA School of Dance offers a M.F.A. in Dance (emphasis on performance or choreography). This degree program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance, which is the premiere arts accrediting agency in the United States for both higher education and professional schools. In meeting accreditation standards for size and scope, the UA School of Dance has maintained an enrollment of 12 to 15 graduate students, which combined with 120-125 undergraduate majors constitutes one of the country's larger university dance programs.

It should be noted that a precedent exists for differential tuition, program fees or arts fees on the graduate level among ABOR identified peer institutions. The University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign, the University of Minnesota, the University of Texas - Austin, and the Ohio State University all have an arts fee/differential tuition.

DISCUSSION:

Quality of the program and market pricing: There are only a handful of dance programs in the country with “school” status. The UA School of Dance is among the top five programs in the country with an emphasis on performance. At the same time, we have maintained academic rigor. We are, relative to our competitors (see first list below) the only program housed on a Research I campus, and are proud to help carry forward the land-grant mission of the institution.

There is such demand for our program that we can be very selective. Over the last decade we have been able to attract the best students in the country. That selectivity leads to very high

retention and very high graduation rates, and has actually helped us to increase diversity! Our calculations indicate the graduation rate is almost 100% for graduate students, and that diversity has doubled among Hispanics and quadrupled for the African-American population on all levels within the School.

For now, the competing dance programs that our students typically consider (in addition to the University of Arizona) are: Juilliard, NYU-Tisch Conservatory, Southern Methodist University, and Point Park Conservatory. The reason for their interest in these programs varies, however. In the case of Juilliard and Tisch, students are motivated by the stellar reputations of the programs there and by the fact that the location is New York City. For SMU and Point Park, students are attracted to the reputation and the fact that the design of those programs is similar to ours -- with some integration of ballet, jazz and modern.

Other institutions included on the ABOR list of peers (Peer Median and Average Calculations and Rank by Total Cost, FY 2009) and which have both graduate and undergraduate dance programs are: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Ohio State University - Main Campus, University of Washington, University of Iowa, and University of Texas – Austin. However, the dance programs housed in these five “peer” state institutions are not competitive with the UA School of Dance, even though Ohio State University has created some strong specialties, including film for dance. Ohio State is also known for having a strong grad program.

This information is relevant for ABOR consideration because, as stated in Chapter IV of the ABOR Policy Manual [4-104-B.4.b.(4)], market pricing must be evaluated. Even if these programs were competitive in terms of quality and/or content, the total cost to the student in these six institutions generally ranges from \$1,000 to \$7,000 more than the total cost to UA dance graduate students once our proposed fees are added in. The exceptions to this are the University of Iowa, which until last year did not even have audition requirements for the dance major, and the University of Texas-Austin for non-resident graduate students.

Given the demand for our program, and the very high cost of attending other dance programs with whom we actually do compete, (i.e. Juilliard, Tisch, and SMU, where tuition ranges from \$30K to \$42K, and Point Park Conservatory, where the in-state cost is over \$25K!) it is reasonable to project that students will still flock to the UA and that future enrollments will not decline in numbers as a result of a program fee.

Access: As required in 4-104-B.4.b.(2), this plan will allow for access for qualified students who cannot afford the program fee and will include a set aside of 17% for need-based aid. In addition, the dance program has a number of named scholarships from individual donors, and carries a high percentage of the College’s Medici Scholars as well.

Cost of delivery/programmatic benefits: The cost of delivery is the subject of 4-104-B.4.b.(3). First, in relation to the paragraph directly above, all recruitment and advising for both the graduate populations in the School of Dance are done by faculty. All student services are also carried out by faculty. Therefore, students get the best guidance possible. This, however, is one of the additional costs to the School, because generally faculty advising is

more expensive than staff advising. Other programmatic benefits that students will receive that are not available to students in other competing programs include:

- Advanced levels of technical support for students enrolled in choreography, ensemble, music and dance collaborations, and capstone courses. These classes use expendable materials as well as computer technology to support lighting, sound, video and film. None of the classes in this group just described carry a course fee.
- A large number of performance opportunities (35 per year as compared to about 8 to 12 in other programs) and the opportunity to create full-length MFA concerts.
- International travel, currently getting partial funding from donors and contributions from the students traveling. The UA Dance Ensemble has been invited to perform in nine countries in Europe, Asia and South America. Travel has been curtailed in recent years due to budget constraints, but some level of international experience is extremely educational.
- A state of the art theatre that is dedicated to dance. Only a few dance programs in the country have their own theatre, and in the case of the four named competitors as well as those state institutions on OIR's peer list, all have to share facilities with a number of other units in the institution.

Other fees: The only special costs currently associated with the M.F.A. degree at the UA are course fees for those classes using accompanists. These fees, which help to cover the costs for non-major classes as well as those for the major, were approved by ABOR five years ago. However, the impact on the graduate student in dance is small. Required classes that carry a course fee total only \$120 to \$140, spread out over two to three years, for an average of \$45 to \$65 per year.

Increased Student Earnings Potential: Professional employment in the performing arts is very competitive. While many students with M.F.A. degrees end up teaching in studios, conservatories, K-12 or higher education, the competition in the performing world is extreme, and any competitive edge gained can mean the difference between a job and no job in some cases, or between a job that pays \$15,000 a year and one that pays \$45,000 a year. The enhancements provided by this program fee, in particular the opportunity to create full evenings of work and/or to be on stage 35 to 50 times a year, will better position our students for success. And, the Stevie Eller Dance Theatre, while currently a state-of-the-art facility, will remain current with advances in theater technology. Those items, along with controlled class sizes and travel as education, will create a student graduate whose chances for employment are vastly improved over one without those same experiences and support.

Benefits to the Entire University: The School of Dance provides significant benefit to the University as well as the community of Tucson, the surrounding regions and the state of Arizona. Specifically, the dance program has been featured in numerous major campus events, answering the call from four different presidents over the last 20 years. These events have included, just in the last 10 years, two major capital campaign celebrations, two productions about the Phoenix Mission, and the recent inauguration of President Shelton. In general terms, the School enhances the diverse and excellent cultural life of the campus, and has performed in over 30 benefits for philanthropic organizations in the community.

As a major land grant University, and under the Federal Morrill Act, the University of Arizona is to provide to the state's inhabitants "the means of acquiring a thorough knowledge of the various branches of literature, science, and the arts." Therefore, the University of Arizona has an obligation to expose all students to the richness the arts and humanities offer in addition to the other academic disciplines and other activities on campus. For those students majoring in dance, their careers will contribute to the economic growth not only in Arizona but nationally and internationally. The impact of successful graduates in the arts ripples back to the University eventually as those graduates become generous alumni, grateful for the excellent education received on the UA campus.

Student buy-in: This proposal is being submitted after thorough consultation with students, as called for in 4-104-B.4.b.(6). Student "buy-in" was obtained in January 2010. Out of 12 graduate students, 9 were present for the discussion. The only student expressing concern will be graduating this May. All other students were in support of the proposal.

Financial Impact of the Request on Revenue: The new program fee will generate approximately \$7,200 in revenue next year.

Please note the following table.

Appendix I

The University of Arizona 2009–10 Tuition and Mandatory Fees with Peers School of Dance Graduate Program

Resident		Tuition	Fees	Tuition + Fees	Current or Proposed Arts Fee	Total of Tuition, Fees & Proposed Fee
1	U California-Los Angeles	7,836	2,821	10,657	7,231 ³	17,888
2	Pennsylvania State U	15,446	812	16,258	0	16,258
3	U Minnesota-Twin Cities	11,212	2,189	13,401	210	13,611
4	U Illinois-Urbana Champaign	9,318	3,196	12,514	1,040	13,554
5	U Maryland-College Park	11,304	1,187	12,491	69 ²	12,560
6	Michigan State U	11,478	470	11,948	0	11,948
7	U California-Davis	7,836	3,685	11,521	0	11,521
8	Ohio State U	9,990	718	10,708	324	11,032
9	U Washington	10,160	567	10,727	0	10,727
10	U Wisconsin-Madison	9,500	1,018	10,518	0	10,518
11	U Texas-Austin	9,572	0	9,572	338	9,910
12	U Florida	8,108	1,368	9,476	0	9,476
13	The University of Arizona	7,330	302	7,632	600	8,232
14	Texas A&M U	5,322	2,661	7,983	0	7,983
15	Arizona State University*	7,128	848	7,976	0	7,976
16	U Iowa	6,840	1,023	7,863	0	7,863
17	U North Carolina-Chapel Hill	5,413	1,749	7,162	0	7,162

Non-Resident		Tuition	Fees	Tuition + Fees	Current or Proposed Arts Fee	Total of Tuition, Fees & Proposed Fee
1	U California-Los Angeles	22,872	2,821	25,693	7,231 ³	32,924
2	Pennsylvania State U	27,398	812	28,210	0	28,210
3	U Florida	24,673	2,197	26,870	0	26,870
4	U Illinois-Urbana Champaign	22,584	3,196	25,780	1,040	26,820
5	U California-Davis	22,872	3,685	26,557	0	26,557
6	Ohio State U	25,230	718	25,948	0	25,948
7	U Maryland-College Park	24,384	1,187	25,571	69 ²	25,640
8	U Washington	23,500	567	24,067	0	24,067
9	Michigan State U	23,196	470	23,666	0	23,666
10	The University of Arizona	22,242	302	22,544	600	23,144
11	U Wisconsin-Madison	22,045	1,018	23,063	0	23,063
12	U North Carolina-Chapel Hill	19,811	1,749	21,560	0	21,560
13	U Iowa	20,444	1,023	21,467	0	21,467
14	Arizona State University*	20,322	1,048	21,370	0	21,370
15	U Minnesota-Twin Cities	18,310	2,189	20,499	210	20,709
16	U Texas-Austin	18,302	0	18,302	354	18,656
17	Texas A&M U	12,066	2,661	14,727	0	14,727

¹Ohio State U: Art & Music fee only; Music fee is higher @ \$1,056 AY.

³UCLA: Fee for MFA in Theatre, Film & TV only.

Note: U Florida's Fees are the only ones that vary for Residents and Non-Residents. *Arizona State U is not an official UA peer institution but is an ABOR-regulated state peer. ¹U Maryland: Fee assessed to all univ students allowing for reduced student admissions to art events. ²Ohio State U: Art & Music fee only; music fee is higher @ \$1,056 AY. ³UCLA: Fee for MFA in Theatre, Film & TV only.

RECOMMENDATION: *The recommendation should be specific, clear, and concise.*

We recommend Arizona Board of Regents approval for a program fee of \$600 per academic year for all graduate students in dance effective Fall 2010.