October 14, 2016 Request special fees for Dance  
Submitted by Janet Lilly, Director of the CVPA School of Dance

The School of Dance requests a $75 per semester Special Fee for Dance AOS codes VPA U435, U437, U458, and U459. The Dance Special Fee will replace the VPA Studio Usage Fee of $35.00 charged each term to undergraduate dance majors. Dance graduate students will continue to pay the $35.00 VPA Studio Usage Fee (AOS codes VPA G734, G681 and G735).

With approximately 100 undergraduate dance majors the $75.00 per term would generate approximately $7,500 per semester and $15,000 a year to enhance undergraduate student experiences in the School of Dance.

School of Dance faculty and students have considered the positive and negative impact of special fees. We agree that Dance special fee allocations should be reviewed by and allocated in consultation with undergraduate dance majors. Based on ongoing conversations and student survey responses we concur that pressing needs in the School of Dance include having musicians for dance (accompanists) in more dance technique classes, and regular access to dance medicine specialists for dance students.

In addition to working with our school constituents, we consulted with the Dean and Associate Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, as well as the Senior Vice-Provost of the university. We have also looked at how other dance units in the UNC system assign special fees. The table below summarizes our findings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Tuition/Fees per semester (In-state)</th>
<th>Dance special fees (Per semester)</th>
<th>Annual Total for Dance students if tuition stays the same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNCG</td>
<td>3,485.</td>
<td>Proposed at $75.00</td>
<td>6,970. with increased fee 7,120.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECU</td>
<td>3,418.50</td>
<td>None $25.00 audition fee</td>
<td>6,837.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNCSA</td>
<td>4,327.50</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>9,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNCC</td>
<td>3,313.50</td>
<td>$62.50 per term College of Arts and</td>
<td>6,752.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Architecture student fee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>App State</td>
<td>3,495.50</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>6,991.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We have surveyed all current undergraduate dance majors asking them if they would be willing to absorb a special fee in order to sustain the excellence of the dance program, and to enhance their educational experience. With a 50% response rate, 100% of survey respondents agreed that $75.00 per semester was a reasonable amount to request. They also appreciated our commitment to systematic annual reporting of how the funds are spent each year, and to securing student input as to preferred expenditures for the following year. Several of their comments follow:

1. I absolutely think that I would benefit from more live accompanist and a Dance Medicine Specialist. Live music makes class so much more enjoyable and fosters communication and relationships between musicians and dancers. A dance medicine specialist would be a great investment for our department. As a student who is not from Greensboro, if I get injured I wouldn’t know where to go for specialized treatment, and I’d most likely be working with a doctor who doesn’t understand the dance world or dance injuries. If we had a dance medicine specialist, we would be able to get specialized care for dance injuries right in our department. (Dance BFA Junior)

2. A Dance Medicine specialist would be a great addition for my cohort, because we feel that when we get injured, there are very few people that we can talk to. Yes, our professors can be helpful, and it is comfortable talking to them, but even they will admit when they do not always feel qualified to assist. For example, today my friend experienced a sharp pain in her hip unexpectedly during class, and the pain continued to the point where she could not continue dancing. She went to one of our professors who is trained in somatic practices, but is not a “doctor.” The professor tried the different exercises that are within her expertise, and deemed that my friend should go see a doctor immediately....Sports medicine doctors, and those at the Student Health Center, although they can be helpful, do not always understand the strain and rigor that we as dancers put our bodies through daily. Having someone that works specifically alongside us would know and be more efficient at discovering the root of the problems, and probably help us
prevent further or more injuries department wide. (DCE BFA Sophomore)

3. I would be willing to personally pay more. It is understandable if some of my peers do not feel the same way, since we are not all in the same financial situation, but I think that these are two valuable resources that our department will thrive if given. Surrounding schools such as UNCSA and UNCC already pay what we are requesting, and the former pays more. I want our program to be successful, and I feel that this is an important way for us to enhance our technique classes, and the safety of our undergraduate experience. More funding, along with these additional resources, will increase our level of professionalism because we will have the exposure and experience of working with experts. (Sophomore Dance BFA with Licensure)

4. We currently have zero access to someone qualified in dance medicine. Injuries are part of this field and I think it is extremely important for students to have access to dance medicine and information regarding injury prevention. (BFA Senior)

5. The requested increase is a reasonable amount to ask for. You can always use more funding and it is hardly any noticeable increase. (First year BFA)

Proposed budget:

Income from special fees: $15,000 (per year)

Expenditures:
- $8,500 Musicians for Dance
- 6,500 Dance Medicine Specialists
- $15,000

Approximately $8,500 of the special fees would be used to fund musicians in ballet and contemporary dance technique courses. Live music is essential in training musicality, and rhythmic acuity for the dancer. Our national accreditation body, the National Association of Schools of Dance, standards require that BFA dancers have the ability to "integrate dance-related knowledge and skills, sensitivity to dance and musicality...." (NASD Handbook Standards VIII.A.2.) With our limited available funds for live musicians, many BFA dance students are missing exposure to regularly working with a musician for dance in their ballet and contemporary classes. Instructors do their best to fill in the
blanks with innovative use of recorded music, and the Director of the School makes every effort to locate additional funding for musicians, but our current level of musical dance technique class support does not ensure that we are meeting accreditation standards.

A Dance Medicine Specialist was formerly funded at the unit level in cooperation with the College of Health and Human Sciences, and access to a qualified Dance Medicine Specialist was a strong recruitment point for incoming students and their parents. We have contacted the Kinesiology Department and they are eager to resume the former partnership that supported a Dance Medicine doctoral student to work with dance majors on injury treatment and prevention. Our national accreditation standards address health and safety concerns as follows:

*Dance program policies, protocols, and operations must reflect Attention to maintenance of health and injury prevention and to the relationships among: the health and safety of dancers.... Specific methods of providing information and addressing injury Prevention, technology and facilities are the prerogative and responsibility for the institution. (NASD Handbook II.F1.c)*

**October 2016 Student Survey questions:**

1. Do you think that you would benefit from having greater access to live musical accompaniment in your dance technique classes and regular visits by a Dance Medicine Specialist?

2. Do you think that the special fee is a good idea? Would you be willing to pay more than $75.00 per term to support musicians for dance and a dance medicine specialist? Why or why not?

3. Any other comments or suggestions?

**Links to web information:**
http://www.uncsa.edu/admissions/tuition-fees.aspx
http://finance.uncc.edu/sites/finance.uncc.edu/files/media/Fall2015_Spring2016_Special_Fees.pdf
http://admissions.uncg.edu/cost-and-aid-breakdown.php