December 3, 2008

Timothy P. White
Chancellor
Chancellor’s Office

At its meeting of Wednesday, November 19, 2008, the Graduate Council considered a request from the Department of Dance to change the names of its Ph.D., M.A. and M.F.A. graduate programs. The Department has indicated and the Council agreed that the changes do not involve or necessitate any change in the nature of the graduate degree programs; they are merely a more accurate reflection of the work presently being done by faculty and students within the Department. In addition, the name change requires no new resources. The approved names changes for the dance graduate programs are: Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in Dance History and Theory are to be renamed Ph.D. and M.A. in Critical Dance Studies. MFA in Dance is to be renamed MFA in Experimental Choreography. Per the regulations of the Universitywide Compendium, the Graduate Council requests that your office review this change and that upon your favorable review, you office transmit the Department of Dance’s request, Council approval, and your office’s concurrence of these changes to the Office of the President via your monthly report. If you have any questions concerning this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Chris Switzer, Chair
Graduate Council

CS/vb

Cc: Academic Senate
    Dr. Kraut, Dept. of Dance
    Graduate Division, Admissions
    Graduate Division, Graduate Academic Affairs
November 24, 2008

Anthea Kraut
Dept. of Dance

At its meeting of Wednesday, November 19, 2008, the Graduate Council considered your request to change the names of its Ph.D./MA and MFA degree programs. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved your request as submitted.

Chris Switzer, Chair
Graduate Council

CS/vb

Cc: Academic Senate
Dr. Rose, Chair, Dept. of Dance
Katrina Oskie, Graduate Assistant, Dept. of Dance
Graduate Division, Admissions
Graduate Division, Graduate Academic Affairs
MEMO: Christopher Switzer  
Chair, Graduate Council

FROM: Anthea Kraut  
Graduate Advisor

RE: Request for Name Changes of Dance Department Graduate Programs

DATE: October 30, 2008

The Dance Department requests changes to the names of its PhD and MFA degree programs. The name changes will not involve or necessitate any change in the nature of the graduate degree programs; they are merely a more accurate reflection of the work presently being done by faculty and students within the Department. The name changes require no new resources.

PRESENT NAMES:
PhD in Dance History and Theory
MFA in Dance

PROPOSED NAMES:
PhD in Critical Dance Studies
MFA in Experimental Choreography

RATIONALE
As pointed out by the 2007 External Program Review of the Dance Department’s graduate programs, the current names of the Department’s PhD and MFA programs no longer accurately reflect the nature of the work being done in the Department. The original name of the PhD program was adopted in 1992. That name, “PhD in Dance History and Theory,” suggests a two-pronged focus to the study of dance: one on history, the other on theory. In reality, the PhD program is committed to an interdisciplinary model of dance scholarship that pursues a variety of critical methodological and theoretical approaches. The proposed new name, “PhD in Critical Dance Studies,” is a more appropriate designation for the range of cutting-edge research pursued by faculty and graduate students in the Department, as well as for the revisions that were made to the curriculum subsequent to the inauguration of the program. This new name also more accurately reflects the direction in which the field of dance scholarship at large is moving and marks our Department’s pioneering and innovative position in the field.

Likewise, the proposed new name of the MFA Program, “MFA in Experimental Choreography,” much more closely corresponds to the actual emphasis of the program, which focuses on the development of choreography that challenges cultural assumptions and is informed by a critical and reflective perspective. The new title would be a reflection of the nature of the artistic work that actually goes on in the Department.

The faculty voted unanimously in favor of both name changes.