DEPAUW STUDENT GOVERNMENT

WHITE PAPER NO. 2

A White Paper Concerning CLA/SoM Integration

After discussion with students, faculty, and staff, we realize there is a strong desire for the integration of the College of Liberal Arts and the School of Music of DePauw. Both schools wish for better integration, and DePauw Student Government would like to create a movement which would cause these two schools to unite into one university as one great DePauw with a variety of interests.

For consideration concerning integration:

All School of Music performances are free and open to the public, which allows for great exposure to the culture that is the School of Music. Advertisement for these performances is not limited to the music building; there are posters in the HUB and academic buildings, and announcements in the depauweekly. Percussion at Peeler is a step towards bringing music to the center of campus and creating an environment that is approachable to both CLA and SoM students. More events like that would allow for interaction and collaboration between both schools. Most often, the CLA students specifically attend their SoM friends’ performances when they have been personally invited. But, largely, these great opportunities for exposure to the world of music are not taken advantage of by the average CLA student. We believe that more effective advertisement would be encouragement by word of mouth (student-student, teacher-student, staff member-student, etc). We would like to see a discussion between the students of both schools and those who advertise for the SoM concerning what is the most effective mode of advertisement and the implementation of it.

Inversely, the SoM could be more effective in attending CLA functions. SoM students are very knowledgeable, especially concerning their specific areas of study, and we feel that they could bring more views to CLA events. For example, SoM student attendance at CLA Honor Scholar thesis presentation, Peeler Art Gallery show, science research presentations, etc. would generate better interaction between students from both schools. CLA events need to be better advertised to SoM students, providing opportunities for them to experience events outside of the School of Music. Not only would SoM students be able to bring their knowledge and perspective to these CLA functions, but they would be experiencing more than just their normal music-related events that comprises most of their experience of DePauw.

Regarding scheduling, the School of Music offers classes that are specifically designed for CLA majors, such as certain topics courses and music theory. Ensembles, Musical Theater Scenes, and Chamber music ensembles are available to CLA students. CLA students are also
eligible to receive paid-for private lessons through performance scholarships by auditioning and participating in a large ensemble. The BMA and 5 Year Double Degree allows for the largest possibility of integration for DePauw students to acquire both CLA and a Music degree or majors. We ask administration to consider more promotion of these majors as an option for students who wish to be heavily involved in both schools, and the existing options of participation in both schools mentioned above. We also wish to bring to the administration’s attention the difficulties of scheduling for students who wish to fully integrate themselves within both colleges. Better communication between CLA and SoM administration will allow for the largest possibility of integration to maximize an approachable liberal arts experience that can be called a “DePauw Experience.”

Finally, the First Year Experience program, specifically mentor groups, provides the first ability for students to form close relationships and find a niche at DePauw. As it stands now, the CLA and SoM seminars are separate, and so students form these important first and hopefully lasting bonds between other students within their respective schools. Besides that, the mentor group provides a huge support system for the students within their mentor group during the first year. We believe that this is one of the main causes of the schism between the SoM and the CLA. While, we understand that there are logistical issues concerning advising, mentoring, and curriculum surrounding this issue, we would like a specialized student-led committee and the administration to take a closer look at this issue and see if there is any way that we can remedy it. The SoM and the CLA should not have separate student bodies, but instead form one great DePauw student body.

In looking at all of these areas, and the issue in general, we see huge opportunities for improvement in integration. As a school, we understand the importance of a liberal arts education, and with that the importance of exposure to multiple areas of education. Unfortunately, we feel that advantage is not being taken of many of these areas of possible education. We wish to maximize the opportunities for students in both schools to explore different areas and have a better liberal arts education.

Motion by: Senator Jessica Au
Seconded by: Rep. Palmer

Aye 46
Nay 6
Abstain 0
This 7th day of November, 2010.

Signed copy on file in Student Government office
Christine Walker, President

Attest:

Signed copy on file in Student Government office
Tyler Hess, Secretary

PASSED