**Technical Theater Program Advisory Meeting**

Via Email correspondence

1 October 2020 – 9 November 2020

**Welcome**

Scott provided insight on the rationale behind the changes made to the Technical Theater program. The primary agenda item for this meeting was to vet the revisions to the Technical Theater AA and the new Live Entertainment Technician COA.

**Industry Advisors:**

*Paul Rossi – Technical Director at Laguna Playhouse, Laguna Beach, CA.*

*Ryan Steidinger – CEO of Pacific Coast Entertainment, Huntington Beach, CA.*

*Jack Morones* – Production Manager at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Orange County, CA.

**Discussion:**

*Regarding the Technical Theater AS*

The consensus was that the program provided students with a well-rounded introduction to the discipline and prepared them for transfer to bachelor’s degree programs or entry level positions in the theater field.

While multiple courses are titled “design”, it was clarified for the advisors that implementation of these courses emphasizes technician skills and interpreting the work of the designer, rather than actual design. This was in accord with the advisor’s assertion that we should be training technicians, not designers if students are to be competitive for entry level positions.

The recommendation for adding a drafting course came up as it has before, however populating such a course is problematic. Saddleback already has a course and has had difficulty sustaining it.

*Regarding the Live Entertainment Technician COA*

The new certificate program received more focused responses from the advisors. Paul commented on the absence of costume content. While costuming is outside the scope of the certificate, he felt strongly that some exposure to costuming was worthwhile in the interest of fostering mutual respect between disciplines. Incorporation of the CWE course was universally praised. Jack reiterated the importance of the program having training in current technology for stage lighting. Specifically control and networking architecture. Ryan felt that in a brief (two semester) program, theater specific technologies (scenic construction, counterweight rigging) should be replaced with skills that better reflected the broader live event industry. Examples include arena style rigging, truss, temporary stages, and lighting controllers other than the ubiquitous ETC brand. Heavy equipment operation (forklifts, and aerial work platforms) would also improve the program.

Outcome of vote to move the two programs forward.

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|  | Live Entertainment COA | Technical Theater AS |
| Paul Rossi | Aye | Aye |
| Ryan Steidinger | Aye | No |
| Jack Morones | Aye | Aye |