**Dance Vocational Advisory Board**

**Palomar College**

Minutes of the

Dance Vocational Advisory Board

8/29/14

Board Members:

Molly Faulkner – Palomar College Professor, Master Teacher, Freelance Choreographer

Patriceann Mead – Palomar College, Master Teacher, Artistic Director of Agogo

Coral Bruni -- New West Ballet, Manager, Teacher, Choreographer

Sue Gilson – Georgia’s School of Dance, Owner

Peter Kalivas -- PGK Project, Artistic Director

Karen Schaffer – CSUSM, Professor of Dance

Sohaila – Dance Newvo, Owner, Choreographer, Master Teacher

Joei Waldron – Axxiom Dance Collective, Artistic Director

Jaysen Waller – Legoland, Performer, Manager

Robin Worley – Dance FX, Teacher, Owner

PRESENT: Coral Bruni, Molly Faulkner, Peter Kalivas, Patriceann Mead, Robin Worley

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Molly Faulkner at 10 am in Room PAC 216.

INTRODUCTIONS: Each member present introduced themselves and their dance affiliations.

INFORMATION ON DANCE DEGREES: Molly and Patriceann gave a brief overview of our mission statement and General Dance/World Dance Vocational Degrees.

NEW REPEATABILITY, CURRUCLUM, and HR CHANGES: Molly and Patriceann outlined the various challenges regarding the no repeatability restrictions and the HR changes with equivalency affecting our part-time faculty. They also discussed the curriculum/program designation changes for the General and World Degree to “Folk Dance” that will allow less stringent restrictions on hiring qualified part-time faculty.

NEW FINANCIAL AID CONCERNS: Molly and Patriceann shared the new Financial Aid restrictions tying students to their ED Plan with very little room for electives. This was followed by a lively discussion of the devastating ramifications to not only the dance programs missing out on all of the students who would have taken a dance class, found a passion/interest and become majors, but how missing out on those majors would potentially affect the four year schools where our students transfer.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?: All of the members of our board have businesses and companies that hire our students/alumni as teachers, dancers, office managers, choreographers . . . Molly and Patriceann asked them to discuss their experiences with how our program was training the students to be effective in the workforce. The key points of the discussion were:

* Peter complimented Palomar’s vocational programs for producing dancers with an openness and appreciation for all forms of dance.
* Peter also complimented us on how we trained our dancers to be aware of, and able to appreciate “professional” level dance training in a variety of genres.
* Molly and Patriceann discussed the fallacy of producing “professional” level dancers in a two year program but emphasized that the Palomar Vocational Dance Curriculum could and did produce dancers who knew what professional level training AND professional level work ethic entailed, and that included an appreciation and openness for all forms of dance.
* Coral Bruni discussed the creation of internships with area studios to help student receive the necessary skills based training they were no longer able to receive at Palomar because of repeatability restrictions. All board members present agreed that this was a way to ensure the dancers were able to be more viable in the workforce.
* Robin suggested more emphasis on teaching as several of the Palomar alumni had struggled at her studio with knowing how to teach multiple levels of students. (I will note here that the alumni in question had NOT taken the teaching methods class offered every Spring as part of our General Dance degree).
* Internships in teaching tied to the General Dance degree and more specifically with the Teaching Methods Class were discussed as a training ground for better pedagogy.
* Molly suggested looking into the Service Learning model as a potential vehicle for both internship ideas.
* A general discussion ensued of more cross-pollination and collaboration between all organizations represented. Peter said that he frequently needed dancers for paying gigs and would like to contact Palomar as a resource to get reliable dancers. Coral and Peter expressed a need for male dancers. And a lively discussion about the seasonal nature of professional dance work and the necessity of not being “territorial” about dancers/students would benefit everyone. Coral mentioned that studios need a dedicated student base for their livelihood which may be the cause for “territorial” atmosphere.
* Robin discussed having Palomar help create a ballet curriculum for her studio so that all of the ballet teachers were teaching from a common reference point.
* It was generally agreed that there are wonderful opportunities for collaborations that will help Palomar Dance Vocational students get the skills based technical training, performance experience, and the pedagogical training they need to be successful in the workforce.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting Adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Faulkner