**Dance Vocational Advisory Board**

**Palomar College**

Minutes of the

Dance Vocational Advisory Board

9/4/2015

Board Members:

Molly Faulkner, Ph.D. – 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 Schaffman, Ph.D. – CSUSM, Professor of Dance

Sohaila – Dance Newvo, Owner, Choreographer, Master Teacher

Joei Waldron – Axxiom Dance Collective, Artistic Director

Jaysen Waller – Legoland, Performer, Entertainment Manager

Robin Worley – Dance FX, Teacher, Owner

PRESENT: Molly Faulkner, Patriceann Mead, Karen Schaffman, Sohaila, Jaysen Waller, Robin Worley,

GUESTS: Paul Stine – Performer and Choreographer at LegoLand

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.

**Challenges with repeatability and low enrollment** and **New Financial Aid Concerns**

Molly and Patriceann gave a brief overview of our Euro-Western, General Dance/World Dance Vocational Degrees and outlined the various challenges regarding repeatability restrictions, enrollment procedures and restrictions, and counseling telling student misinformation. Molly and Patriceann shared the new Financial Aid restrictions tying students to their ED Plan with very little room for electives, the three day rule from enrollment to payment, and the administration’s propensity to drop classes two weeks before school starts for low enrollment, not giving students enough time to get enrolled.

Membership/Apprentice Ideas

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:

* Patriceann and Molly discussed community building with Palomar students through open lab hours, and shared spaces for students to hang out, which also was a very successful recruitment tool.
* Patriceann told everyone about our new Dance Survey course targeting H.S. Students. This is part of our aggressive H.S. outreach program.
* Sohaila expressed concern that the Palomar website and the Palomar Performing Arts website were very hard to negotiate and not updated regularly enough for students to get correct information.
* Sohaila also had great ideas for promotional materials including posters that include all of Palomar’s Dance genres to be placed where students congregate, like counseling offices and where students enroll, and Posters featuring CSUSM and Palomar offerings on the same poster.
* Karen Schaffman complimented us on our new facility and expressed several ideas for NCHEA grant collaborations between CSUSM, Palomar, and Mira Costa, and even and idea that included all three institutions AND Legoland.
* She mentioned a new pedagogy class and a new movement awareness class at CSUSM and intern/mentorship/student teacher opportunities she was working on between California Center for the Arts’ new “Step Beyond” Program ( a program targeting under-served youth). And she mentioned two wonderful artists coming into North County to present at the Visual and Performing Arts Lecture Series at CSUSM.
* Molly mentioned TRIO as a possible connection for “Step Beyond” and that a collaboration between Palomar and CSUSM might yield very well trained dance teachers.
* Jaysen Waller talked about what LegoLand is looking for in dancers, and that LegoLand hires 45 (ish) dancers and now have dancers in costume character costumes.
* Paul mentioned that our students needed to be prepared for auditions and a lively discussion ensued about Paul teaching several “Audition” workshops to Palomar students.
* Paul and Jaysen mentioned that LegoLand hires a lot of Palomar dancers especially those out of the Choreography and Student Dance Production classes.
* Robin stated that she hires MANY Palomar alumni as teachers. She also stated that our Teaching Methods course is fundamental to their success as teachers. She expressed a wish that we could give move emphasis on anatomy and physiology.
* Patriceann (who has a Master’s Degree in Kinesiology and Injury Prevention) mentioned she used to teach a dance kinese class but since it shared content with PE she was not allowed to teach it. And since CSUSM now has a huge program in Kinesiology, it won’t be offered.
* Robin also said she is looking for teachers who know how to teach both competitive dancers and recreational dancers because those two types of dancers are very different.
* There was a brief discussion about internships for the Teaching Methods class, which Robin said Dance FX would LOVE to have our students as interns. In a phone conversation with Peter Kalivas Sept. 4 (he couldn’t attend the meeting) he and Molly discussed using Palomar students for teaching interns, and production interns for his company down in San Diego. There were also plans to bring him to Palomar to talk about his teaching philosophy, and what it is to be a professional choreographer.
* A lively discussion about student internships to LegoLand for both Palomar and CSUSM was initiated. Jaysen said he would talk to their outreach/community person about it.
* Robin stated DANCE FX has a class card – 5 classes for $50 to be taken within 45 days. This is great for our dancers to be able to get additional training at an affordable rate. In a conversation with Coral Bruni on August 27, Coral mentioned New West Ballet is offering a College Card $60 for unlimited classes for the semester. These partnerships are invaluable to our students to get the training necessary that Title V repeatability restrictions simply will not allow our Palomar students to get at Palomar College.
* In a conversation with Sue Gilson, she stated Georgia’s School of Dance is offering unlimited classes for the Semester for $60. This is another example of our board members helping mitigate the damage done by repeatability restrictions.
* Sohaila suggested we have a Palomar Dance Facebook page.
* Robin said her studio gets a lot of traffic on their Instagram page and Twitter feed.
* EVERYONE lamented that students no longer read flyers or look at bulletin boards, it’s all social media on their phones.
* Molly is helping DANCE FX create a ballet curriculum for her studio so that all of the ballet teachers can teach 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 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Faulkner