**Dance Vocational Advisory Board**

**Palomar College**

Minutes of the

Dance Vocational Advisory Board

3/9/2018

Board Members:

Molly Faulkner, Ph.D. – Palomar College Professor, Master Teacher, Freelance Choreographer

Patriceann Mead, M.F.A. – Palomar College, Master Teacher, Artistic Director of Agogo

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

Sue Gilson – Georgia’s School of Dance, Owner

Peter Kalivas -- PGK Project, Artistic Director

Karen Schaffman, Ph.D. – CSUSM, Professor of Dance

Paul Stine – Legoland, Choreographer

Joei Waldron – Axxiom Dance Collective, Artistic Director

Jaysen Waller – Legoland, Performer, Entertainment Manager

Robin Worley – Dance FX, Teacher, Owner

Christina Wurz – Owner of New West Ballet, Choreographer

PRESENT: Molly Faulkner, Patriceann Mead, Sue Gilson, Blair Stuka (Dance FX), Christina Wurz

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:10 am in Room PAC 216.

1. Introductions/Highlights: Each member present introduced themselves and their dance affiliations. Highlights included
   1. Georgia’s School of Dance celebrating 65th anniversary, Performance June 22/23.
   2. Dance FX performance June 22.
   3. New West Ballet performance April 28/29 and June 30/31.
   4. San Diego Inland Empire Women’s week included a performance choreographed by Sue Gilson featuring Palomar Alumni dancers.
2. Challenges
   1. Course Reductions: Mead/Faulkner explained the new scheduling tool and that the Palomar Dance Program has been reduced by 2/3 in the last five years. Also explained the scheduling team’s decision to cancel advanced Modern and Jazz every other semester resulting in an interruption in training for our students.
   2. Low Enrollment: Mead/Faulkner explained the Palomar Administrations “efficiency” numbers and the contract language stating a course must have 20 students to be held. Explanations of Cap/FTE were also given.
   3. Front Door Issues: Mead/Faulkner explained the enrollment challenges faced by our students and that it now takes up to four weeks into the semester to get our students enrolled.
   4. Financial aid concerns: Mead/Faulkner explained pathways, transfer agreements and the number of courses covered by financial aid.
   5. Labor Market data/CTE Funding: Mead/Faulkner explained the criteria the state uses to collect data does not take into consideration the fact that dance is a gig economy. So it doesn’t reflect accurate numbers of our working alumni, or the demand for dancers/teachers/choreographers/recreational workers in our communities. This unfortunately affects our ability to apply for CTE funds. Briefly touched on perhaps running a survey that can capture some of the relevant data.
3. Outreach Efforts: Faulkner outlined our April outreach push into the local H.S.’s and trying to reach out into the charter school market.
4. Mentorship/apprenticeship ideas: This discussion yielded a great idea by Blair Stuka to start a sub-pool of Palomar’s more responsible students who are willing to be substitute teachers for a variety of local studios. This would allow our more advanced/trained students to work and learn the culture of the area schools.
5. How can we help you? Things we can do to make our students employable for your companies, schools, businesses. A great and lively discussion ensued about the skills these employers looked for in hiring.
   1. How to run a class
   2. Ability to teach a variety of levels (beginning through advanced)
   3. Ability to teach a variety of ages (young children through adults)
   4. Ability to teach a wide variety of genres of dance
   5. Ability to understand the body and how it works and the ability to translate that information to the individual student
   6. Ability to work various software and to negotiate administrative duties
   7. Advanced level technical proficiency in a wide variety of dance genres
   8. Understanding developmental progression in children to teach appropriate skills
   9. Willingness to learn studio culture by watching classes, student teaching, being a teacher’s aid . . .
   10. Professional presentation/etiquette – knowing how to write a resume, bio, behave in an interview/audition

There was great conversation about the Production Management class and its role of teaching professional standards, including audition preparation, headshots, reels, resumes, learning how to run a concert, and how to present yourself professionally in a variety of different contexts.

The discussion turned to the importance of the Teaching Methods class and preparing students for employment in the dance studio. And the meeting ended with a discussion of the importance for students to have access to a diversity of dance genres and the importance of consistent training at the advanced levels that prepares students for success in the “real world”.

Peter Kalivas/PGK Project was unable to attend but sent an email addressing the points on the agenda that echoed the conversation we had during the meeting.

I will be asking for feedback from our members who were unable to attend.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting Adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Faulkner