



State of New Jersey
GLASSBORO STATE COLLEGE
GLASSBORO, NEW JERSEY 08028

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT
FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

FEB 26 1981

GLASSBORO STATE COLLEGE

DIVISION OF FINE & PERFORMING ARTS
Department of Music

February 25, 1981

Dr. Dickinson Gardiner
Chair, Senate Curriculum Committee
Glassboro State College
Glassboro, New Jersey 08028

Dear Dr. Gardiner:

Enclosed is a proposal to change the degree granted by the Department of Music for course work in Applied Music and Music Education from a Bachelor of Arts to Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education.

The proposal was unanimously approved by the Department of Music on January 30, 1981.

Sincerely,

Veda Zuponic
Chairperson

Enclosure
dlb

cc: Dean William Morris
Dr. Lawson Brown ✓
Mr. Thomas Wade

Proposal for Changing the Degree,
"Bachelor of Arts in Music" to "Bachelor of Music in Applied Music"
and "Bachelor of Music Education"

The Glassboro State College Music Department requests that the degree granted for study in Applied Music and Music Education be changed from a Bachelor of Arts degree to the Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education degrees. Because the titles BM or BME have national recognition among music educators on all levels, as well as employers, we feel it is in the best interests of the college and the students to grant degrees that best describe the course of study pursued by the student. The Bachelor of Arts degree will, of course, be retained for the student who seeks a Liberal Arts degree in Music.

The Department of Music presently offers three different tracks in Music, all of which lead to the Bachelor of Arts degree. The national accrediting body of music programs in colleges, universities, and conservatories, the National Association of Schools of Music, accredited GSC's music programs in 1973, recognizing that these three tracks met national standards for programs in Applied Music, Music Education, and the Liberal Arts.

There are a number of degree designations used in the United States for programs similar to ours. Among them are Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music Education and Bachelor of Fine Arts. A survey of degree titles used by all the member colleges of NASM reveals the following information:

1. Of the 484 members of NASM, 414 offer a course of study leading to certification in music education. Of these:

265 confer either the Bachelor of Music or the Bachelor of Music Education degree,

65 confer a Bachelor of Arts,

79 confer a Bachelor of Science and,

5 confer the Bachelor of Fine Arts.

2. For the course of study leading to a degree in Applied Music, 310 confer a Bachelor of Music degree.

It becomes clear that the overwhelming majority of music schools prefer the degree designations, Bachelor of Music or Bachelor of Music Education.

For many, the implication in the BA designation is that the school offering the BA degree in Music has a weak, undemanding and uncompetitive department. If one were to choose the most important music schools in the country, one would find near unanimity in the conference of BM and BME degrees. Since GSC's Music Department is, and has been, one which is vital and strong, and one which provides intensive musical training--producing well-prepared, competitive students--the degree title BA does our students and alumni a disservice in terms of prestige.

Many of our students pursue graduate degrees. Schools offering Master of Music or Master of Music Education degrees have an initial negative reaction to credentials which list a BA degree, forcing the graduate school candidate into a weakened position for admission. (Of schools offering Masters degrees in Music, only 66 use the title, Master of Arts; again, those schools which are the recognized national leaders uniformly prefer the MM or MME degrees.)

Similarly, employers often move past the dossier which mentions the awarding of a BA, even though our present BA is in conformity with national standards for the Bachelor of Music and BME.

Within the State, Glassboro State College has always been a leader in Applied Music and Music Education, with facilities and faculty to compare with any in New Jersey and many in the nation. Montclair State College, and more recently, William Paterson College, have been authorized to grant Bachelor of Music degrees. Glassboro State College needs to have the same authority to grant BM and BME degrees so that it may retain its competitive edge in recruitment and assist our graduates in securing employment.

Attached are current curriculum sheets; proposed changes from BA to the appropriate degree are indicated in red on each sheet. If the Department is authorized to grant the BM and BME degrees, no curricular changes will be necessary; we would continue to conform to applicable State and local curriculum policy.

One concern regarding this proposal was voiced by the Division of Professional Studies. It was pointed out that some students pursuing the Music Education track might find the BA degree more useful than the BME degree precisely because of its generality in securing non-teaching employment. The Department of Music finds no conflict here. We propose to retain the Music Education track as it stands now beneath the BA designation, side by side with the BME. When a student nears completion of his college studies, he can, with counseling, decide to apply for the degree which is most useful to his career objectives.