24 November 2020

Dear Members of the Senate and Provost Phillips,

The Undergraduate Council expresses its strong support for the BFA in Dance proposal. This program is a fine example of curriculum design that is highly inclusive and intercultural, and creates space for faculty with multicultural disciplinary interests.

In the spirit of the Anti-Racism Resolution passed by the Senate last year, we recognize the great importance of promoting programs that will attract a more diverse faculty base and allow our students to develop an understanding and appreciation for diversity and equity. We wholeheartedly support the Anti-Racism Resolution, as well as the Diversity Plan outlined in the Provost’s letter to the University on October 9th, 2020. As is stated in the October 9th letter, “All students are called to study and understand the complex history and ongoing impacts and contributions of race and cultural heritage within our country. And this work needs to be broadly integrated across the university curriculum.” President Schill echoes this sentiment in his November 23rd letter to the University, in which he writes, “We have already done a lot of work in this area in terms of increasing our representation of students of color and providing new and enhanced curricular and co-curricular opportunities. But we need to do more.”

The Undergraduate Council also encourages the Senate and Office of the Provost to support the proposed replacement hire within the school of Music and Dance. The TTF line retiring in June 2020 will be used to hire a TTF specializing in dances of the African diaspora that is an important element of the long-term success of the new BFA in Dance.



Sincerely,

Jana Prikryl

Undergraduate Council Chair

University of Oregon