



February 13, 2008

Dear Senators:

Thank you for considering the Master of Music in Music Therapy. We are pleased to make this proposal as an effort to maintain our track record of excellence in the field of music therapy over the past 30+ years and to address the new licensure requirement by the State of New York.

Attached to this letter is a statement from Dr. Joni Milgram-Luterman that covers the background for the development of the proposal, some information about what other campuses have done to respond to the new law, and how the program will interface with student demand and need.

In reference to a question posed at a recent Senate meeting, there are two courses listed in the program proposal – Developmental Psychology and Clinical Psychopathology – that are required by the Office of the Professions and not available currently at Fredonia. Several options are available to provide this content.

- SUNY Learning Network offers these courses. This would be a viable choice for our students.
- Collaboration with the University at Buffalo Social Work program is possible. We are researching their rotation of offerings, availability, etc.
- SUNY Fredonia Psychology Department may agree to offer summer courses in these subjects (course proposals would be needed)

The Master of Music in Music Therapy is vital to the profession of Music Therapy in New York. We have been proud of the graduates of our undergraduate program and look forward to providing a leadership role for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karl Boelter", written in a cursive style.

Karl Boelter, Director
School of Music

Proposed Master's of Music in Music Therapy
Dr. Joni Milgram-Luterman, MT-BC, LCAT

February 4, 2008

In a memorandum dated January 2005, from the Deputy Commissioner, Office of Higher Education and Office of the Professions to Chief Executive Officers of Degree-Granting Institutions and Psychoanalytic Institutes in the State of New York, regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to Professional Education and Licensure in Mental Health Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy, Creative Arts Therapy and Psychoanalysis were published. Music Therapists fall under the Creative Arts Therapy profession, and as of January 2010, only music therapists who are Licensed Creative Arts Therapists may practice music therapy in New York State. The practice of Creative Arts Therapy is defined as psychotherapeutic, whereas the current scope of practice of music therapy is eclectic, and not necessarily psychotherapeutic. Universities within New York State who wish to offer programs leading to licensure must request registration of new programs designated as "licensure qualifying" with the Department. In order to be registered as a program designated as leading to licensure in creative arts therapy, the creative arts program must lead to a master's or doctoral degree, which includes at least 48 semester hours of study outlined in the Regulations. In order to support the field of music therapy and better serve consumers in New York State, I believe that it is the responsibility of current university programs that offer music therapy degrees to comply with the law. This proposal reflects SUNY-Fredonia's response to this challenge. Furthermore, the American Music Therapy Association has published a final draft of Advanced Music Therapy Competencies (2007) and this master's proposal addresses these new competencies as more advanced than bachelor's entry level.

NYU, Nazareth College and SUNY-New Paltz have already gone through the process, and are offering the new master's program. Molloy College is waiting to hear from Higher Ed to begin (they have been waiting since December 2006). I waited until last summer to formally create and propose a program, as I wanted to be sure that what we propose would address the license as well as reflect SUNY-Fredonia. Each of the already established programs has interpreted the law in a different way (within the guidelines) and students in New York State will have the opportunity to select a program that suits them. NYU merely extended their already existing Master's program; Nazareth's program focuses on medical music therapy and SUNY-New Paltz has created an extension of their Bachelor's program. Our master's program as outlined proposes that we keep our well-respected Bachelor program in tact to prepare music therapists for Board Certification with the Certification Board for Music Therapists, thus the master's degree addresses advanced music therapy practice to prepare graduates for Licensure as Creative Arts Therapists.

The program is designed to accommodate working music therapists, and includes clinical training & courses required for licensing, as well as the American Music Therapy Association and the National Association for Schools of Music. I have identified three advanced clinical training models that we will offer as an integral part of the program: Guided Imagery and Music; Vocal Psychotherapy and Creative Piano Improvisation. Other required courses address graduate music core courses (already offered); music therapy theory, philosophy and research; psychology, professional/clinical issues and advanced instrumental skills.

Prospective students will be professional music therapists who still require licensure, as well as those who were grandfathered, but would still like to pursue advanced training and our own undergraduate students, once they complete their coursework for the undergraduate program. Several of our graduates have expressed interest in our master's program. Two of our graduates who are successful clinicians in Rochester have already begun to take the required graduate psychology courses as they wait for us to begin. Another of our successful music therapy graduates is one of our own instructors in the school of music who is taking one of our required graduate music core courses in anticipation. All of our recent graduates and our current undergraduates are prospective candidates for our Master's program, as well as several local clinicians who are also waiting for us to begin. I continue to field inquiries from prospective master's students from all over the state.