February 27, 2009

Dr. Belle S. Wheelan  
President  
Commission on Colleges  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
1866 Southern Lane  
Decatur, GA 30033

Dear Dr. Wheelan:

The University of West Florida (UWF) proposes to offer the Bachelor of Music Education (BME) effective with the Fall Semester 2009.

UWF has had a long history of preparing music educators. A Bachelor of Arts in Music Education (B.A.M.E.) was among the original degrees authorized in 1966 at the founding of the University. In 1975, the Faculty Senate and UWF administration approved deleting the stand-alone B.A.M.E. and replacing it with a Teaching specialization within the Bachelor of Arts in Music (B.A.M.). However, the B.A.M.E. was not officially removed from UWF's degree inventory until 1990. At that time, the then Florida Board of Regents conducted a system-wide review of all low-enrolled/low productivity degree programs. Because UWF's music education students were enrolled in the Teaching specialization in the B.A.M., the B.A.M.E. showed up as a program with no enrollment and no degree completions. Although the B.A.M.E. (CIP 13.1312) was deleted from UWF's inventory, the Teaching specialization in the B.A.M. continued as a viable program.

In 1996, the Teaching specialization was revised to conform to legislative requirements restricting the number of credit hours in bachelor's degree programs to 120 sh. In 1997, the Teaching specialization was again revised to reflect Board of Regents approval for music education programs to require up to 134 sh for degree completion. With the introduction of alternative routes to teacher certification by the Florida DOE, the program was revised as an alternative certification program and the number of credits required for degree completion was reduced to 120 sh in 2003.

From its inception until 2003, the Teaching specialization in the B.A.M. (CIP 50.0903) carried Florida DOE approved program status for certification-eligibility upon completion of degree program. In 2003, the DOE status changed to approval as an alternative certification program.
The National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), through its recent onsite and written evaluation process, strongly recommended changing the title of the current Bachelor of Music Performance/Teaching degree to Bachelor of Music Education. NASM recommended this change in degree title to match the curriculum that is currently being offered.

Approximately half of the current majors in the Music Performance (CIP 50.0903) degree program are in the Teaching specialization (38 – 40 students). These students would convert to the Bachelor of Music Education (B.M.E., CIP 13.1312). Additionally, 12-14 students would join the program in Fall 2009 as FTIC or transfer students. The enrollment history for the Music Performance—Teaching specialization suggests that the B.M.E. will be a viable program.

In sum, this represents a degree title change from the current degree Bachelor of Music (B.M.), Teaching Specialization to the Bachelor of Music Education (B.M.E.) CIP Code 13.1312 effective Fall Semester 2009 and requires no additional resources for faculty, facility, and equipment.

The program has been approved by the UWF Faculty Senate and Board of Trustee approval is expected at its March 6, 2009 meeting. Should you need further information about the proposed new degree program, we would be more than happy to provide it.

Sincerely,

Judith A. Bense, Ph.D.
President

cc: Michael S. Johnson, Vice President, COC SACS
    Chula King, Provost
    Jane Halonen, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
    Don Chu, Dean, College of Professional Studies
    Kyle Marrero, Chair, Department of Music