

**National Association of Schools of Dance**

**SELF-STUDY**

**in *Format A***

**Presented for consideration by the  
NASD Commission on Accreditation**

by

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
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WWW.SHSU.EDU/ACADEMICS/DANCE

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**Degrees and/or programs for which Final Approval for Listing is sought:**

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance

Master of Fine Arts in Dance

**Degrees and/or programs for which Plan Approval is sought:**

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance

Master of Fine Arts in Dance

## **SECTION I. PURPOSES AND OPERATIONS**

### **A. Purposes of the Institution and Dance Unit**

#### **University Mission**

Sam Houston State University provides high quality education, scholarship and service to qualified students for the benefit of regional, state, national, and international constituencies.

#### **University Vision**

Best at Educating the Texas Workforce:

- Excellence in academics
- Effective in student success
- Efficient in operations
- Loyal to traditions
- Dedicated to innovation

#### **University Goals**

- Foster a lifelong learning environment in support of a diverse faculty and staff who are excellent scholars, educators, and professionals.
- Promote a stimulating learning environment through the integration of academic settings, campus culture, and service.
- Increase and develop university resources and infrastructures that support the intellectual transformation of students.
- Enhance marketing outreach and visibility to include academic and scholarly activities through consistent and integrated messaging while optimizing communication channels.
- Promote efficient data driven decision making through the integration of centralized data analysis, review, and dissemination.
- Cultivate a continually sensitive and proactive response to the ever-changing needs of our constituents.

The mission statement has been approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and The Texas State University System Board of Regents. The mission statement addresses the institution's responsibilities in teaching, research, and service as mandated by the Texas Education Code. The mission is specific to SHSU and is consistent with a Carnegie Doctoral Research University classification.

The mission statement drives the university's strategic planning process. The Strategic Planning Committee, appointed by the President, is charged with reviewing and updating the mission statement of the university. The mission statement is foundational for the environmental scan which is a vital component of strategic planning at the university. As part of this process, the committee seeks feedback from departments across campus in its review.

Establishment, approval, and periodic review of the Sam Houston State University Mission Statement is carried out every four years in accordance with the Texas Higher Education

Coordinating Board Rules (see MDP I—Purposes and Operations, A. Purposes, SHSU Strategic Plan—Model of Current Plan). Previous, complete university strategic plans are located on the SHSU website (see Flash Drive, Links to Online Material, 3-SHSU Previous Strategic Plans).

### **Department of Dance**

The Department of Dance at Sam Houston State University delivers a dynamic, challenging experience that integrates creativity, performance, and scholarly pursuits designed to prepare each student for a 21st-century career in dance.

The department's mission statement appears in the Department of Dance section of the university catalog and on the departmental website. The mission statement guides departmental strategic planning and operations. Results of departmental strategic planning are communicated annually to the Dean of the College of Arts & Media, becoming a component in college-level strategic planning which is then forwarded to the provost. (See the department's strategic plan in Flash Drive, MDP III— Evaluation, Planning, and Projections, Department of Dance Strategic Plan.)

### **B. Size and Scope**

The Department of Dance typically enrolls 100-115 majors, distributed as

- 90-100, BFA in Dance
- 10-15, MFA in Dance.

The department's personnel include eight full-time faculty members, two part-time faculty members, and three staff positions. A box office manager, box office staff, and facilities manager are provided by the college and are shared with other units within the college. The department employs qualified MFA in Dance students to teach some courses and to assist in non-teaching capacities. The number varies, as do the duties, but generally six to nine graduate students are awarded assistantships. (See MDP I—Purposes and Operations, E. Faculty & Staff.)

On average, the department serves about one hundred undergraduate majors per semester in dance courses. Graduate enrollment averages about 12 MFA students. Theatre students are also required to complete some dance technique courses; musical theatre students with dance emphasis degree plans are required to complete 25-28 hours of dance.

Since a new minor in dance was approved as of Fall 2016, the number of students declaring dance as a minor and enrolling in dance courses has grown every semester, with 60 students at the university declaring the dance minor by Spring 2019.

Maximum capacity levels for classes are determined by a combination of pedagogical and safety concerns. Technique classes are usually capped at or below 20 students. We attempt to limit choreography courses to 15. Graduate courses must have a minimum enrollment of 5 in order to run and be included in the calculation of faculty workload. In recent years, enrollment in theory or lecture courses has grown to meet demand, with some classes exceeding 30 students. Most of the dance courses fill to pedagogical capacity each semester.

- an allocation of Higher Education Assistance Fund (HEAF) monies, generally used for capital expenses
- an allocation of Delta funds: funds generated by fees for online classes
- endowed scholarships, annual scholarships, and donations from patrons.

University budgetary support for the department has been strong and consistent for many years. See the HEADS Data Survey and other records (Flash Drive, MDP I—Purposes and Operations, B. Size and Scope and C. Finances, “HEADS Data Survey” and Flash Drive, MDP I—Purposes and Operations, C. Finances, “Financial Statements”).

The university publishes, in its catalog and academic calendar, all regulations and policies concerning tuition, fees, and other charges, including a tuition refund policy (see Flash Drive, Links to Online Material, 1-SHSU Undergraduate Catalog 2019-2020--Financial Information and 17-SHSU Academic Calendar).

The university maintains accurate financial records according to legal and ethical standards of recognized accounting practice. As a member of The Texas State University System, the university undergoes periodic audits as mandated by The Texas State University System. (See Flash Drive, MDP I—Purposes and Operations, A. Purposes, “The Texas State University System – Rules and Regulations,” *Chapter III, System – Component Operations; Section 7 – The Audit Function*).

The university was established in 1879 and in the fall of 2019 recorded its highest enrollment to date, exceeding 20,000 students. Past and potential financial stability and long-range financial planning are demonstrated by the university’s current operations, including its membership in The Texas State University System and by its successful operations of long standing.

A positive, quality student experience, including learning, health and safety, is central to the university’s financial operations and support. It would be difficult to identify many university initiatives, from departmental budgeting, to faculty recruitment and resourcing, to new construction of classrooms and housing, to SHSU’s Alcohol and Drug Abuse Initiative, to the university budgeting process itself that do not have student learning, health, and safety as a centerpiece of intent.

In developing annual budget requests to the college from the Department of Dance, each faculty member has an opportunity for input. Departmental requests are guided by the department’s strategic plan. The chair submits an annual departmental budget request to the dean.

#### **D. Governance and Administration**

The university is a member of The Texas State University System (TSUS). The Texas State University System is governed by a nine-member board of regents appointed by the governor. In addition, a nonvoting student regent is appointed annually to the board. The administration, which is headed by a board-appointed chancellor, is based in Austin, where it provides support to the system components and state government. Support services to the system's eight member

institutions include legal counsel, accounting, financial audit, academic program planning, contract administration, government relations, and communications services (see Flash Drive, Links to Online Material, 18-The Texas State University System).

## **Regents**

The Texas State University System Board of Regents is:

William F. Scott  
*Chairman*  
Nederland

David Montagne  
*Vice Chairman*  
Beaumont

Charlie Amato  
*Regent*  
San Antonio

Nicki Harle  
*Regent*  
Baird

Duke Austin  
*Regent*  
Houston

Dr. Veronica Muzquiz Edwards  
*Regent*  
San Antonio

Gary Crain  
*Regent*  
The Hills

Alan L. Tinsley  
*Regent*  
Madisonville

Don Flores  
*Regent*  
El Paso

Katey McCall  
*Student Regent*  
Orange

## **President**

The chief executive officer of Sam Houston State University is the president, Dana Hoyt. The president of the university is responsible for the development, maintenance and utilization of the university's resources in such a manner that its goals and objectives are achieved in the most effective and efficient manner, and in accordance with the desired philosophy as determined by the Board of Regents. The authority, duties, and responsibilities of the president's office can be found in The Texas State University System – Rules and Regulations. (See MDP I—Purposes and Operations, A. Purposes, “The Texas State University System – Rules and Regulations,” *Chapter IV, Presidents of the Components; Section 2 – Authority, Duties, and Responsibilities*).

## **Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs**

The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Richard Eglsaer, is the university's chief academic officer and reports directly to the President of the University. Responsibilities of this position include the supervision of all matters, policies, procedures, and activities within the Division of Academic Affairs. Reporting to the Provost are the Academic Deans, Associate Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies, Associate Vice President for Research and Special Programs,

Associate Vice President of Research Administration and Technology Commercialization, Associate Vice President of Distance Learning, and the Director of the Library.

An overview of the university's organizational structure is below (Figure 2).

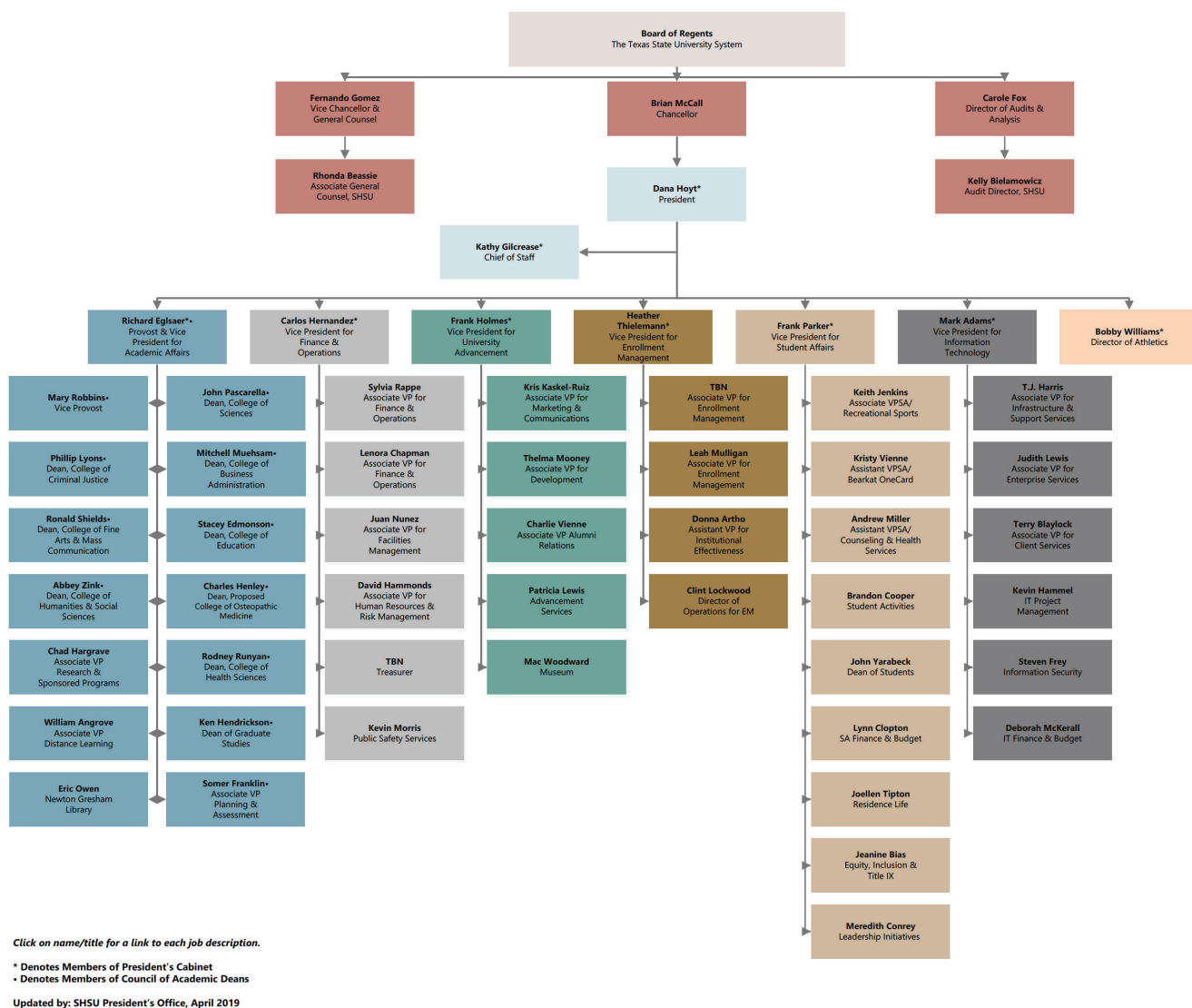


Figure 2

## College of Arts & Media

The College of Arts & Media is comprised of the Department of Art, Department of Dance, Department Mass Communication, Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre, and the School of Music. The dean is Ronald Shields.

## SECTION IV. MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTS PORTFOLIO (MDP)

### MDP I—Purposes and Operations

For additional documents, see Flash Drive, MDP I—Purposes and Operations folder

#### A. Purposes

##### SHSU Catalog

The SHSU Undergraduate Catalog is published online (see Flash Drive, Links to Online Material, 1-SHSU Undergraduate Catalog 2019-2020).

The SHSU Graduate Catalog is published online (see Flash Drive, Links to Online Material, 2-SHSU Graduate Catalog 2019-2020).

#### SHSU Strategic Plan-Model of Current Plan

