

January 19, 2017

Subject: 10-Year of the School of Music

To: The Graduate School

From: Joel Durand, Ted Poor, Melia Watras

We would like first of all to thank the members of the Review Committee for their effort and time preparing and conducting the 10-year review of the School of Music.

We are gratified to see that the positive aspects and the strengths of the School – both as regards the quality of its faculty and the long-term efforts it is making to become a better institution – were outlined clearly in the report. We are conscious that much work still needs to be done, and indeed is being done in order to fully define our new identity. The period since our last Review has been very challenging, as we have lost a large number of faculty lines but we are confident that the direction established by our current director will yield fruitful results in the long term.

The committee rightfully noticed that the School of Music is actively engaged in all areas of contemporary music making. We have and will continue to make a concerted effort to maintain that direction as dynamically as we can in the coming years. This constitutes our best chance to affirm our identity (as noted by the Committee) and to serve as a guide for decisions in the future.

Another important point that was noticed by the Review Committee was our commitment to increase the population of non-major students involved in music classes – including our newly formed Campus Philharmonia Orchestra. We are convinced that these endeavors need to remain strong. To that effect, we hope that we will continue to receive full support from the College to maintain and indeed increase our ability to staff positions (TAs, in particular) that allow us to offer those classes. This seems to us a vital effort on the part of the School of Music and even more so, of the College of Arts and Sciences.

We were also gratified to read in the report that students in general are excited to be studying here. This is certainly our utmost goal and the reason we do what we do, as faculty and supporting staff.

In summary, we again would like to express our thanks to the Review Committee for their hard work and dedication to helping us.

Respectfully,

Joel Durand

Ted Poor

Melia Watras