Dear Professor Fox and Dean Woods:

The NASM Commission on Accreditation, at its November 2009 meetings, took action regarding your institution. A Commission Action Report is enclosed describing this action in detail. If applicable, this Report will contain any further requests to your institution from the Commission. A copy of the Commission Action Report is being sent to the individuals listed below, along with a notice of NASM policies regarding strict confidentiality.

A copy of the NASM Visitors’ Report is enclosed.

Please contact the NASM National Office staff if you have questions or need assistance.

The Commission on Accreditation and the Association appreciate your institution’s continuing efforts on behalf of music, and look forward to working with you to support advancement of the field.

With best regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Samuel Hope
Executive Director

cc: Michael J. Hogan, President
    University of Connecticut
Peter J. Nicholls, Chancellor, Provost
    University of Connecticut
Don Gibson, President, NASM
Charlotte A. Collins, Chair
    NASM Commission on Accreditation
Sue Haug, Associate Chair
    NASM Commission on Accreditation
B. Glenn Chandler, NASM Visitor
Robert Walzel, NASM Visitor
John J. Deal, NASM Visitor
December 17, 2009

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
Department of Music

Action:

The Commission voted to continue the current Membership status of the institution and to seek further information before completing its work with the application for renewal of Membership. This deferral by the Commission is not a negative action. Rather, it enables consideration of issues and concerns by the institution and the Commission within the framework of the present Self-Study and on-site visit.

The institution is asked to respond to the concerns below.

The Commission also took action regarding new curricula, as outlined elsewhere in this report.

Items for Response:

1. Regarding the degree, Bachelor of Science in Music Education, it is not clear how the standard requiring students to be able “to arrange and adapt music from a variety of sources to meet the needs and ability levels of individuals, school performing groups, and in classroom situations” is being met. Specifically, the Commission requests information as to how music education students are provided with those skills (see Visitors’ Report, page 13; Optional Response, page 13; NASM Handbook 2009-2010: December 2009 Edition, item IX.L.3.b.(2)).

2. Regarding the degrees, Master of Music in Performance (Voice) and Master of Music in Performance (Choral Conducting), it is not clear that the standard requiring students “to be proficient in English, German, French, and Italian diction and to have general phonetic knowledge and skills that can be applied to other languages” is being met. The institution is requested to provide more detailed information beyond the brief general statement on the curriculum guide and an explanation of how the department ensures that vocal/choral conducting students are required to fulfill the totality of the standard (see Visitors’ Report, page 15; Optional Response, page 14; University of Connecticut Handbook for Graduate Music Students 2009-10, page 20; NASM Handbook 2009-2010: December 2009 Edition, item XIV.B.6.c.).

3. Regarding the degree, Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting (Choral), it is not clear how the standard requiring choral conductors to have a “mastery of vocal performance and detailed knowledge of vocal
technique and pedagogy" is being met. Specifically, the Commission requests information as to how the department ensures that all doctoral choral conducting students gain these competencies (see Visitors’ Report, page 16; Optional Response, page 15; University of Connecticut Handbook for Graduate Music Students 2009-10, pages 25-26; NASM Handbook 2009-2010: December 2009 Edition, Appendix I.C. Section 1.A.3.).

4. Regarding the degree, Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting (Choral), it is not clear that the standard requiring choral conductors to have “language and diction skills sufficient to coach singers in French, German, Italian, English, and Latin, as well as general phonetic knowledge that can be related to other languages” is being met. Specifically, the Commission requests information as to how the department ensures that all doctoral choral conducting students gain these competencies (see Visitors’ Report, page 16; Optional Response, page 15; University of Connecticut Handbook for Graduate Music Students 2009-10, pages 25-26; NASM Handbook 2009-2010: December 2009 Edition, Appendix I.C. Section I.C.2.).

5. The institution is asked to provide a status report on the Hiring Plan to convert part-time adjunct faculty positions into full-time in-resident positions, as well as adding faculty members in winds and percussion, in order to ensure that the NASM standard stating the “number and ratio of full- and part-time faculty positions, and their distribution among the specializations” is “sufficient to achieve the music unit’s purpose” is being met (see Self-Study, pages 4-5, 7, and 117; Visitors’ Report, page 5; Optional Response, page 8; NASM Handbook 2009-2010: December 2009 Edition, item II.E.2.a.(1)(a)).

6. The institution is asked to provide a status report on efforts to ensure that the NASM standard is met that requires “plans and provisions” for the “adequate acquisition, maintenance, and replacement” of musical instruments (see Self-Study, page 34; Visitors’ Report, page 7; Optional Response, page 10; NASM Handbook 2009-2010: December 2009 Edition, item II.F.1.c.).

7. In order to ensure that the NASM standard for “acoustical treatments appropriate to music facilities” is being met, the institution is asked to provide confirmation and a timetable for the planned acoustical adjustments to the band rehearsal room (see Self-Study, page 33; Visitors’ Report, page 7; Optional Response, page 10; NASM Handbook 2009-2010: December 2009 Edition, item II.F.1.f.).

8. In order to ensure that the NASM standard requiring that “all instructional facilities shall be accessible,” is being met, the institution is asked to provide information as to the status of plans and a timetable (as developed by the University Department of Architecture and Engineering Studies) for making the piano laboratory accessible (see Self-Study, page 32; Visitors’ Report, page 8; October 9, 2009 letter from Office of the Vice President found in the Optional Response; NASM Handbook 2009-2010: December 2009 Edition, item II.F.1.h.).
9. With the transfer of the music education degree program to the School of Education, it is not clear to the Commission how the standard requiring that “admission standards must be sufficiently high to predict the prospect of success in the program for which the student is enrolling” is being met. Specifically, it is not clear if a performance audition is still required for admission, and it is not clear that the assignment of one single music faculty member to the School of Education admissions committee will allow sufficient input to ensure that appropriate musical practices take place. The institution is asked to provide detailed information about music admission requirements (see Visitors’ Report, pages 9 and 12; Optional Response, pages 11 and 13; NASM Handbook 2009-2010: December 2009 Edition, item V.A.; V.D.1.).

Due Date for Response:

October 1 for consideration at the Commission meetings of November 2010.

The Procedures for Submitting Responses and Progress Reports may be downloaded from the NASM Web site at http://nasm.arts-accredit.org (see “Publications,” “Accreditation Procedures and Documents,” and beneath that “Other Procedures Related to the Accreditation Process”).

New Curricula:

1. The Commission voted to grant Plan Approval for the following degree:

   Bachelor of Arts in Music (Jazz).

   The Commission notes that the Jazz emphasis in the degree Bachelor of Arts in Music has been reviewed and approved, but will not be listed in NASM publications due to the Association’s listing policy (see NASM Handbook 2009-2010: December 2009 Edition, Appendix III.B., Section 4.). The Commission notes that the institution may list this emphasis in its publications, and that transcript evidence is not required for emphases within a major that has received Final Approval for Listing previously.

2. The Commission voted to grant Plan Approval for the following degree:

   Bachelor of Music in Composition.

   When three transcripts are available for the major area of this degree, the institution should submit an application for Final Approval for Listing. Instructions for submitting Final Approval for Listing applications are found in Policies and Procedures for Reviews of New Curricula. This document may be downloaded from the NASM Web site at http://nasm.arts-accredit.org (see “Publications,” “Accreditation Procedures and Documents,” and beneath that “Other Procedures Related to the Accreditation Process”).
3. The Commission voted to grant Final Approval for Listing for the following degree:

   Doctor of Musical Arts in Performance.

4. The Commission voted to defer action on the application for Plan Approval for the degree, Bachelor of Science in Music Education.

The institution is asked to respond to the concerns listed below.

**Items for Response:**

a. It is not clear how the NASM standard requiring students to be able “to arrange and adapt music from a variety of sources to meet the needs and ability levels of individuals, school performing groups, and in classroom situations” is being met. The institution is requested to provide information on the new courses being developed by the School of Education, confirming that this standard will be met for music education majors (see Visitors’ Report, page 13; Optional Response, page 13; NASM Handbook 2009-2010: December 2009 Edition, item IX.L.3.b.(2)).

b. It is not clear how one two-semester-hour conducting course will meet the NASM standard requiring students to be able “to create accurate and musically expressive performances with various types of performing groups” developed through instruction in conducting which includes “score reading and the integration of analysis, style, performance practices, instrumentation, and conducting techniques.” The institution is requested to provide information as to how these competencies will be ensured for music education majors (see curriculum guide in the “Plan Approval: Integrated Bachelor-Master Teacher Preparation Program in Music Education” section of the Self-Study; Visitors’ Report, page 12; Optional Response, page 13; NASM Handbook 2009-2010: December 2009 Edition, item IX.L.3.b.(1)).

c. The institution is requested to demonstrate how all students enrolled in the degree meet the competency common to all professional degrees in music requiring students to “acquire the ability to use technologies current to their area of specialization.” Specifically, the institution is requested to provide information as to whether the required EPSI 3230 education course provides the instruction particular to music technology and software necessary to fulfill the standard (see Visitors’ Report, page 13; Optional Response, page 14; NASM Handbook 2009-2010: December 2009 Edition, item VIII.B.5.).
Due Date for Response:

October 1 for consideration at the Commission meetings of November 2010.

The Procedures for Submitting Responses and Progress Reports may be downloaded from the NASM Web site at http://nasm.arts-accredit.org (see “Publications,” “Accreditation Procedures and Documents,” and beneath that “Other Procedures Related to the Accreditation Process”).

5. The Commission voted to defer action on the application for Final Approval for Listing for the degree Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting.

The institution is asked to respond to the concern listed below.

Item for Response:


Due Date for Response:

October 1 for consideration at the Commission meetings of November 2010.

The Procedures for Submitting Responses and Progress Reports may be downloaded from the NASM Web site at http://nasm.arts-accredit.org (see “Publications,” “Accreditation Procedures and Documents,” and beneath that “Other Procedures Related to the Accreditation Process”).

Notes:

1. The Commission notes that the Community School for the Arts at the University of Connecticut meets NASM criteria for Non-Degree-Granting Programs for the Community, and therefore will be listed the NASM publications (see NASM Handbook 2009-2010: December 2009 Edition, Rules of Practice and Procedure, Article I, Section 3.; Standards for Accreditation, section III.K.).

2. The Commission notes that the Performers Certificate in Music has been reviewed, but will not be listed in NASM publications due to the Association’s listing policy. These programs may be listed in

3. The Commission notes that the Bachelor of Science in Music Education/Master of Arts degrees are integral to each other and therefore will be listed both degrees together upon granting Plan Approval.

Recommendations:

In addition to and separate from the accreditation action outlined above, the Commission wishes to transmit the following recommendation:

Regarding the Bachelor of Science in Music Education, with the transfer of the music education degree program to the School of Education, it is recommended that the institution monitor the following issues to ensure that those NASM standards continue to be met: that music faculty continue to have “a major role in developing the artistic and academic program” (NASM Handbook 2009-2010: December 2009 Edition, item II.D.1.a.(4)(c)); that “student teachers must be supervised by qualified music personnel from the institution” (NASM Handbook 2009-2010: December 2009 Edition, item IX.L.1.b.(4)); that the choice of sites for teaching experiences for music students “must be approved by qualified music personnel from the institution” (NASM Handbook 2009-2010: December 2009 Edition, item IX.L.3.e.(3)); and that the autonomy and authority of music faculty and the music executive be upheld in their responsibility for monitoring musical and artistic aspects of the degree program (NASM Handbook 2009-2010: December 2009 Edition, item II.D.1.b.(2) and (3)).

This recommendation is made in order to assist the development of the music program at the University of Connecticut. The institution is under no obligation to respond to the Commission concerning the above recommendation.

Samuel Hope
Executive Director

SH:mm