DATE: October 10, 2017

TO: College of Arts and Sciences Assembly

FROM: College of Arts and Sciences Committee on Instruction (COI)

RE: Proposal for a Bachelor of Music in Music Technology and Industry

The Department of Music’s proposal for a Bachelor of Music in Music Technology and Industry was approved by the College of Arts and Sciences Committee on Instruction (COI) on September 25, 2017. While the committee strongly endorses the program for its appeal to students and the expansion of Music’s offerings into a new and relevant area, members have the following concerns.

Staffing

The program would be rolled out with one lecturer and two administrative professionals/lecturers teaching the key courses and an assistant professor serving as director. (A tenure-track hire in music technology is proposed for year 2.) While the lecturers/administrative professionals are highly skilled and have longevity within the department, lack of tenured faculty serving the major raised some concern among committee members, as did program directorship at the assistant professor level.

Departmental Resources

The music, theatre and dance spaces within Varner Hall are scheduled to near maximum for the School of Music, Theatre and Dance’s existing programs. This new major will require additional space and specialized equipment that will tax the existing facilities even more. Additionally, the 5-year budget request for equipment strikes the committee as being a low estimate for this specialty program.

In spite of these concerns, the COI has chosen to move the proposal forward in hopes that the merits of the program will be recognized as it goes through higher levels of shared governance and that an appropriate investment is made should it be approved.