Date: October 7, 2010

To: Ron Sudol, Dean
    College of Arts and Sciences

From: Music, Theatre, and Dance Faculties
      Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance

Re: Renaming MTD as a School of Music, Theatre, and Dance (within CAS)

The full-time faculty of the Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance respectfully request permission to change the name of our department to “School of Music, Theatre, and Dance.” We are requesting this name change to enable us to present a better image for purposes of recruitment, retention, and fundraising.

In the state of Michigan and nationally, universities that offer programs of the size and quality of our programs are called either “schools” or “colleges.” Our current name as a multi-disciplinary department implies to others that the individual programs are not strong enough to stand alone as departments. Internally at OU, we all know this is not the case, but externally it appears to be so.

That our size, quality, and complexity are misrepresented by our current name also negatively impacts our ability to raise funds to build appropriate facilities, support scholarships for students, and so on.

Our “department” offers 17 degree programs in three disciplines supported by 152 faculty and staff. We also deliver more than 8000 credits annually to about 3000 non-majors and present productions more than 150 days a year. We feel that the work of our unit would be better represented by the name “school.”

We are not seeking independence from the College, only a name change. To better position our programs to compete for performing arts students and to create a better presence for fundraising purposes, we are asking to be renamed the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance within CAS.

Thank you for your consideration.

The Music, Theatre, and Dance Faculty (undesignated)
Lettie Beckon Alston  
Associate Professor of Music

Debra Bernstein-Siegel  
Special Instructor of Dance

Deborah V. Blair  
Assistant Professor of Music

Miles Brown  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Music

Gregory M. Cunningham  
Associate Professor of Music

Drake Dantzler  
Assistant Professor of Music

Laurie Eisenhower  
Professor of Dance

Melissa Hoag  
Assistant Professor of Music

Thayer P. Ionutz  
Assistant Professor of Dance

David M. Kidger  
Associate Professor of Music

Kerro Knox 3  
Associate Professor of Theatre

Kenneth R. Kroesche  
Associate Professor of Music

Andrew Layton  
Assistant Professor of Theatre

Lynnae Lehfeldt  
Assistant Professor of Theatre

Fred A. Love  
Assistant Professor of Theatre
Michael A. Mitchell  
Associate Professor of Music

Gregory A. Patterson  
Associate Professor of Dance

Jessica Payette  
Assistant Professor of Music

Karen F. Sheridan  
Professor of Theatre

Joseph L. Shively  
Associate Professor of Music

George Stoffan  
Associate Professor of Music

Mark A. Stone  
Special Instructor of Music

Thomas M. Suda  
Special Instructor of Theatre

John Paul White  
Professor of Music

Jacqueline H. Wiggins  
Professor of Music and Department Chair

Alison Woerner  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance

Yin Zheng  
Assistant Professor of Music