## SCHOOL OF MUSIC PEER OBSERVATION OF TEACHING

#### OVERVIEW:

The North Carolina Legislature has recently mandated peer observation for all new and non-tenured faculty. On September 10, 1993 the Board of Governors approved the following statement "...that peer review includes direct observation of the classroom teaching of new and non-tenured faculty and of graduate teaching assistants...". The enclosed statements are the Peer Observation Committee Recommendations for this procedure.

#### PURPOSE/RATIONALE:

The committee supports the rationale that the purpose of peer observation should be to assess and improve teaching. The observation process should function as a positive, supportive tool for the improvement of classroom, applied/studio, and ensemble teaching within the School of Music.

Peer observations will be included in the PAD. Results of the peer observations will be a required part of the annual review process in the School of Music. Non-tenured faculty will include written peer observations in the annual report.

All new and non-tenured faculty members will be observed. The individual faculty member being observed is responsible for the initiation and completion of the observation materials.

## **Procedures for Observation**

#### I. Selection of Trained Observers

- A. All tenured faculty in the School of Music will be trained.
- B. All observers must complete training.
- C. There should be one or two observers per observation.
  - 1. When possible the observers shall come from the department of the faculty member being observed.
  - 2. One trained observer shall be selected by the faculty member's department chair/and or personnel committee.
  - 3. If desired, a second trained observer will be selected by the faculty member.
- II. Observation cycle (minimum)
  - A. Two observations per year. If the faculty member being observed teaches in two departments, then one observation should be scheduled in each teaching area.

- B. If trained observers are not available from the department, they may be chosen by mutual agreement between the faculty member and the personnel committee.
- III. Observation Procedure
  - A. Pre-observation conference.
    - 1. The observer(s) and the faculty member should meet prior to the observation.
    - 2. Purpose of the conference:
      - Choice of class: can be made solely by faculty member or in consultation with department chair/and or personnel committee.
      - Discuss the class/rehearsal/lesson to be observed.
      - Schedule the post-conference.
      - The faculty member being evaluated is given a copy of the peer review instrument which will also serve as the self-evaluation form.
    - 3. Information which may be discussed in the pre-observation conference:
      - a. Lecture:
        - Copy of syllabus, handouts, and/or other materials deemed appropriate
        - Course objectives and goals
        - Lesson/lecture objectives and goals
        - Outline of lecture
      - b. Applied/Studio Teaching:
        - Syllabus or other requirements/expectations for applied students
        - Overview of student background, current level, and progress to date
        - Goals for student
        - Literature currently being studied
        - Possible literature to be covered in the lesson
      - c. Ensemble Rehearsal:
        - Syllabus, ensemble expectations and requirements
        - Performance goals for semester or year
        - Background of students, make-up of group, etc.
        - Overall rehearsal goals
        - Specific goals for each literature
        - Copies of scores to be rehearsed

#### B. Observation

- 1. The observer(s) will visit during the agreed upon class and time.
- 2. The observer(s) will observe and write comments as explained in the training session.
- 3. The faculty member observed will complete the peer-review instrument after the observation.

- C. Post-Observation Conference (Within 5 working days of observation with the observer(s).
  - 1. Purpose of the post-observation conference:
    - Discuss the observation
    - Discuss the faculty member's self-evaluation
    - Discuss strengths of the observation, any needs for improvement, and search for strategies to improve.
    - Write a faculty development plan.
  - 2. Copies of the observation forms will be given to the faculty member observed.
  - 3. Observer(s) will retain a copy of all forms and notes.
  - 4. The faculty member being observed will submit only the completed observation forms with the annual report. The department chair will submit these completed observation forms for placement in the permanent file and PAD.

#### School of Music Peer Review Instrument (Ensemble Version)

Using the items below, record your observations. Your mark(s) on or somewhere between the distinctions "does well" and "needs improvement" should indicate what overall assessment for the category is assigned. You should be able to explain your assessments with specific examples of what the instructor did or did not do to cause you to so conclude. NA/NO - (Not Applicable/Unable to Observe). \* \_\_\_\_\_\_ (Optional areas not covered on form.)

Category 1: Organization	Needs Improvement			-	Does Well	NA/UO
Begins rehearsal on time						
Is efficient in pacing of rehearsal and use of time						
Musical selections are presented/rehearsed in logical sequence and flo	w□					
Clearly states the goals and objectives for the rehearsal and/or musical selection						
Reviews prior rehearsal material, when appropriate, to prepare for literature to be rehearsed						
Summarizes and distills main points as needed						
Gives students the opportunity to demonstrate musical understanding through a final performance of the phrase, section, or entire composition.						
*						
*						
Comments:						

Category 2: Content	Needs Improvement				Does Well	NA/UO
Selects literature appropriate to student experience and ability						
Presents literature of varying styles, tempi, moods, and difficulty levels						
Presents up-to-date developments/ideas in the field						
Demonstrates understanding of musical relationships and interpretative elements (tempo, articulation, etc.)						
Demonstrates knowledge of technical problems related to playing/singing						
*						
*						
Comments:						

# Category 3: Rehearsal Approach

Verbal:	Need Impr	ls rovement	t	Does Well	NA/UO	
Speaks audibly and clearly						
Gives clear and concise directions						
Is demanding in musical expectations						
Communicates an appropriate enthusiasm and excitement toward the music						
Appears well-prepared in knowledge of the score						
Conveys musical intentions through concise verbalizations						
Uses appropriate musical terminology						
*						
*						
Problem Solving:						
Hears errors						
Corrects errors in an efficient, sequential manner						
Structures solutions to musical problems in a sequential order						
Utilizes rehearsal approaches/techniques appropriate for the music being rehearsed						
Incorporates a variety of teaching strategies until improvement is heard						
*						
*						
Non-Verbal:						
Gesture reflects the style of the music						
Gesture is free of annoying mannerisms						
Musical intentions are conveyed through expressive gestures						
Conductor effects a positive change in the musicianship and overall sound of the ensemble						
*						
*						
Comments:						

tegory 4: Rapport/Interaction Needs Improvement					Does Well		
Conductor is demanding yet positive							
Involves all students in the rehearsal							
Praises and criticizes fairly and impartially							
Maintains eye contact during verbalization							
Maintains eye contact when conducting							
Appears aware of student participation, attentiveness, and musical responses							
Listens to student comments and questions							
Encourages students to solve difficult musical questions by providing cues and encouragement							
Respects diverse points of view							
Is able to admit error/insufficient knowledge							
*							
*							
Comments:							
Conductor Observed:							
Ensemble Observed:							
Observer:							
Date:							

### School of Music Peer Review Instrument (Classroom Version)

Using the items below, record your observations. Your mark(s) on or somewhere between the distinctions "does well" and "needs improvement" should indicate what overall assessment for the category is assigned. You should be able to explain your assessments with specific examples of what the instructor did or did not do to cause you to so conclude. NA/UO - (Not Applicable/Unable to Observe). \* \_\_\_\_\_\_ (Optional areas not covered by form.)

Category 1: Organization	Needs Improvement			Does Well		NA/UO
Begins class on time						
Has materials and equipment ready at onset of class						
Clearly states the goal or objectives for the period						
Clearly explains directions or procedures						
Reviews prior class material, when appropriate, to prepare students for the content to be covered						
Summarizes and distills main points at the end of class, when appropriate						
Presents topics in a logical sequence and flow						
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*						
Comments:						

Category 2: Content	Needs Improvement			Does Well		NA/UO
Selects examples relevant to course content						
Answers student questions clearly and directly						
Demonstrates command of the subject matter						
Places information in a musical context						
Quantity of material appropriate for length of the period						
*						
*						
Comments:						

<b>Category 3: Presentation</b>	Need Impr	s ovement		NA/UO	
Speaks audibly and clearly					
Communicates enthusiasm and excitement toward the content					
Pacing of presentation facilitates note taking					
Provides constructive feedback to student questions and comments					
Uses class time constructively					
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*					
Comments:					

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Category 4: Rapport/Interaction	Needs Improvement			Does Well	NA/UO
Listens respectfully to student comments and questions					
Treats all students in a fair and equitable manner					
Responds to wrong answers constructively					
Encourages students to answer difficult questions by providing cues and encouragement					
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*					
Comments:					
Professor Observed:					
Class Observed:					
Observer:					

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### School of Music Peer Review Instrument (Applied/Studio Version)

Using the items below, record your observations. Your mark(s) on or somewhere between the distinctions "does well" and "needs improvement" should indicate what overall assessment for the category is assigned. You should be able to explain your assessments with specific examples of what the instructor did or did not do to cause you to so conclude. NA/UO - (Not Applicable/Unable to Observe). \* \_\_\_\_\_\_ (Optional areas not covered by form.)

Category 1: Organization	Needs Impro	vement	Does Well		NA/UO
Begins lesson on time					
Clearly states the goal or objective for the lesson					
Reviews prior lesson material to prepare student for the content to be covered					
Summarizes and distills main points at the end of lesson					
*					
*					
Comments:					

Category 2: Presentation	Needs Improvement			Does Well	NA/UO
Speaks audibly and clearly					
Makes use of performance and demonstration skills					
Displays a flexibility of approach to individual student's needs					
Communicates a sense of enthusiasm and excitement toward the content					
Allows for discussion, interaction and exchange of ideas					
Motivates student effectively					
Explains technical and musical problems clearly					
Inspires student to raise musical performance level					
Carefully explains assignments					
*					
*					
Comments:					

Category 3: Lesson Content	Needs Improvement			Does Well	NA/UO
Material is appropriate for student's performance level					
Material is appropriate for concepts being taught					
Material covered in lesson reflects the objectives					
Musical and technical information is clear and accurate					
Lesson activities enhance understanding of the concepts					
Knowledge of related areas is pertinent to lesson material					
*					
*					
Comments:					

Category 4: Diagnostic Skills	Needs Impro	ovement	Does Well	NA/UO	
Identifies and analyzes problems					
Offers solutions to problems					
Applies various strategies to fit individual student needs					
Ascertains student's strengths and weaknesses					
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*					
Comments:					

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Category 5: Musical Skills	Nee Imp	ds provement		Does Well	NA/UO
Demonstrates ability to deal with important musical problems such as: intonation, tempo, ensemble, tone quality, balance, rhythm, dynamics, phrasing, vowels and consonants, and musical analysis. (Please feel free to elaborate in comment section).					
Displays knowledge of different musical styles, performance practices and repertoire					
*					
*					

Comments:
Professor Observed:
Lesson Observed (Student):
Observer:
Date: