12-8-2008

Change in History MA Program

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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Resolution # 09
2008-2009
College Senate

New Resolution: ☐
Supersedes Resolutions:

TO: Dr. John R. Halstead, College President
FROM: The College Senate: December 8, 2008

RE: I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)
   II. Recommendation (Urge the Fitness of)
   III. Other, For Your Information (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)

SUBJ: Change in History MA Program (routing #13 08-09 GC)

Signed: Datum: 12/12/08
(Thambirajah M. Rao, 2008-09 College Senate President)

Please fill out the bottom portion and follow the distribution instructions at the end of this page.

TO: T.M. Rao, The College Senate President
FROM: John R. Halstead, College President

RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution (circle choice)
   ☑ Accepted - Implementation Effective Date: Fall 2009
   b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on ______/______/______
   c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II, III. Response to Recommendation or Other/FYI
   a. Received and acknowledged ______/______/______
   b. Comment: ________

Signed: Datum: 12/19/08
(Dr. John R. Halstead, President, SUNY College at Brockport)

Distribution

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE COPIES: Provost, Vice Presidents, College Senate, Other: 12/19/08
PROVOST & VICE PRESIDENT(S) COPIES: Assistant Provost, Dean(s), Academic Advisement, Registrar, Other:
DEAN(S) COPY: Department Chair(s), Other:
COLLEGE SENATE COPIES: Originator, College Senate Website, Other:

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2008-2009-09_res.doc
INSTRUCTIONS – please, no multiple attachments – each proposal must be submitted as one document:

- Submit only complete proposals. Include support letters from department chair and dean.
- Proposals must be prepared individually in Word format using committee guidelines (guidelines online).
- Fill out this cover page for each proposal and insert it electronically as the front page of your document. (available online at www.brockport.edu/collegesenate)
- Email whole proposal with cover page as one attachment to senate@brockport.edu and facprez@brockport.edu.
- All updates must be resubmitted to the Senate office with the original cover page including routing number.
- Questions? Call the Senate office at 395-2586 or the appropriate committee chairperson.

1. **PROPOSAL TITLE:** Please be somewhat descriptive, i.e. *Graduate Probation/Dismissal Proposal* rather than *Graduate Proposal*.

Changing required courses in the History MA program

2. **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:**

HST 691/695 becomes an elective. Students must take a 500-level research-intensive course and at least 18 credits at the 600/700 level. HST 701 Thesis becomes 6 credits. Theses graded A or A- will be bound and placed in the library.

3. **ANTICIPATED EFFECTIVE DATE:** Fall 09

4. **SUBMISSION & REVISION DATES:** PLEASE PUT A DATE ON ALL UPDATED DOCUMENTS TO AVOID CONFUSION.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Submission</th>
<th>Updated on</th>
<th>Updated on</th>
<th>Updated on</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/15/08</td>
<td>11/19/08</td>
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5. **SUBMITTED BY:** (contact person)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J. Lloyd</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>5694</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jlloyd@brockport.edu">jlloyd@brockport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. **COMMITTEES TO COPY:** (Senate office use only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standing Committee</th>
<th>Forwarded To</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>__Enrollment Planning &amp; Policies __</td>
<td>To Committee for approval</td>
<td>10/16/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__Faculty &amp; Professional Staff Policies __</td>
<td>To Executive Committee</td>
<td>11/17/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__General Education &amp; Curriculum Policies __</td>
<td>GED to Vice Provost</td>
<td>Na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XX Graduate Curriculum &amp; Policies</td>
<td>To College President</td>
<td>11/24/08, vote 12/8 passed</td>
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<tr>
<td>__Student Policies __</td>
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<tr>
<td>__Undergraduate Curriculum &amp; Policies __</td>
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</tbody>
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* follow special Gen Ed procedures for submission of General Education proposals at “How to Submit Proposals” on our Website.

**Use routing number and title in all reference to this proposal.

**COMMITTEE CHAIR:**

- **WHEN YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVES A PROPOSAL, PLEASE SIGN WHERE INDICATED ABOVE. GENERAL EDUCATION PROPOSALS MUST ALSO BE SIGNED ON THE SIGNATURE PAGE PROVIDED IN THE PACKET. YOUR SIGNATURE WILL BE UNDER THE DEAN’S SIGNATURE. RETURN ALL PROPOSALS TO SENATE OFFICE FOR PROCESSING.

**PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES TO THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HISTORY MA**
The History Department has voted to approve the following changes in the History MA requirements:

1. All MA students must take at least one 500-level elective that is designated research-intensive.
2. HST 691/695 Research in American/World History is no longer required for all MA students.
3. HST 701 Thesis is 6 credits rather than 3.
4. Students must complete at least 18 credits at the 600/700 level, not including HST 710 Teaching Practicum or TCC 711 Thesis Continuation.
5. Students who earn an A or A- on the thesis will have their theses bound and placed in the library.

### SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old Program</th>
<th>New Program</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>Credits (if student takes HST 701 (Thesis))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HST 600 Intro to Hist Study</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 500-level Electives</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Electives in major field</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Electives in the minor field</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HST 691 or HST 695</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HST 700 or HST 701 Integrative Essay or Thesis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CREDITS</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other Restrictions

- At least half of the credits must be at 600-level.
  - HST 701 becomes a 6-credit course. At least 18 credits must be at 600-700 level (excluding HST 710 and HST 711).
  - Students must take at least ONE 500-level elective "research intensive" course. This is a new requirement.

### Effects of these changes
- The majority of MA students take HST 700 Integrative Essay (3 credits) as their capstone experience. These students would have an extra elective, which could be HST 691/695 or another course.
- Students who write a thesis, which requires a 3.67 GPA and faculty permission, almost always already use HST 691/695 to prepare for the thesis. They would get 6 credits for the thesis instead.

### Rationale
- Students improve their primary research skills in a 500-level research-intensive course.
- Students who choose HST 700 Integrative Essay do not need the extra time on research (691/695). Many are teachers who are better served by taking an extra elective course in a subject they teach.
- The extra time required to write a thesis is rewarded with more credit compared with the comprehensive essay.
• Since HST 691/695 is done as a directed study with an individual faculty member, the current requirement puts considerable strain on faculty. The MA program has 84 students and at present each has to take at a minimum two independent/directed studies.
• The department has changed from grading theses as S/U to giving them a letter grade. We would like to keep the standard of published theses available outside the College high, and reward excellent work with a privilege.
Dear Professor Lloyd:

I am in support of the proposed changes to the History MA program. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any assistance in communicating the importance of this degree to our students and to the campus.

Best wishes,

Susan Stites-Doe, PhD
Dean of Graduate Studies
Professor, Dept. Business Administration and Economics
The College at Brockport
Brockport, NY 14420
585-395-2525
585-395-2515 FAX
sstites@brockport.

I approve the attached proposal.

Stuart Appelle, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Letters and Sciences
350 New Campus Drive
The College at Brockport
State University of New York
Brockport, New York 14420