3-1-2010

Revision to MA in Creative Writing

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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TO:        Dr. John R. Halstead, College President  
FROM:    The College Senate:  March 1, 2010  
RE:            I.   Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)  
II.   Recommendation (Urging the Fitness of)  
III.  Other, For Your Information (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)  
SUBJ: Revision to MA in Creative Writing (routing #24 09-10 GC)  
Signed:________________________________________________    Date: ____/____/____  
Please fill out the bottom portion and follow the distribution instructions at the end of this page.

TO:         Steven Lewis, The College Senate President  
FROM:    John R. Halstead, College President  
RE:         I. 
I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution (circle choice)
   a. Accepted - Implementation Effective Date: ____, Fall 2010
   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:___________________________________________________________ Date: ___________________  
(Dr. John R. Halstead, President, The College at Brockport)

DISTRIBUTION
Upon approval, the College President will forward copies of resolutions to his staff who will, in turn, forward copies to their staff. The College Senate Office will post resolutions to the College Senate Web at http://www.brockport.edu/collegesenate/resolutions.
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: FEBRUARY 28
Incomplete proposals or proposals received after the deadline may not be reviewed until next semester.

INSTRUCTIONS – please, no multiple attachments – each proposal must be submitted electronically 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 available at brockport.edu/collegesenate/proposal.html.
- Fill out this cover page for each proposal and insert it electronically as the front page of your document. (collegesenate/proposal.html)
- Email whole proposal with cover page as one document 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.

c. PROPOSAL TITLE: Please be somewhat descriptive, ie. Graduate Probation/Dismissal Proposal rather than Graduate Proposal.
   English Dept – Revision to MA in Creative Writing

d. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:
   Alters several requirements in the Creative Writing track of the English MA program, without changing total credits.

WILL ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AFFECTING BUDGET ARE NEEDED? NO

HOW WILL THIS EFFECT TRANSFER STUDENTS:
No effect

ANTICIPATED EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2010

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/24/09</td>
<td>1/7/10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUBMITTED BY: (contact person)
Name: J. Roger Kurtz, Chair
Department: English
Phone: x5823
Email: rkurtz@brockport.edu

COMMITTEES TO COPY: (Senate office use only)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Standing Committee</th>
<th>Forwarded For Approval To</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Enrollment Planning &amp; Policies</td>
<td>Committee for approval 11/25/09</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty &amp; Professional Staff Policies</td>
<td>Executive Committee 2/8/10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education &amp; Curriculum Policies *</td>
<td>GED to Vice Provost</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Curriculum &amp; Policies</td>
<td>Senate 2/15/10 (vote 3/1)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Policies</td>
<td>College President 4/5/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Curriculum &amp; Policies</td>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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* follow special Gen Ed procedures for submission of General Education proposals at “How to Submit Proposals” on our Website.

NOTES:
November 13, 2009

TO: College at Brockport Faculty Senate

FROM: J. Roger Kurtz, Chair
Department of English

RE: Proposal for Revision of the MA in English, Creative Writing Track

Summary:

The English department proposes a series of changes to the Creative Writing track of its MA program, outlined below. The changes do not affect the total number of credits required, but we believe they strengthen the program and that they complement concurrent changes that are being implemented in the Literature track of the MA program.

A comparison of the new program to the old program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Course Requirements</th>
<th>Revised Course Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creative Writing Workshops</td>
<td>9-12 ENG 691, Prose Workshop, 3-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENG 692, Poetry Workshop, 3-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENL 572, Critical Approaches to Literature</td>
<td>Or ENG 603, Seminar in Creative Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Or ENL 601, Bibliography and Methods of Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linguistics, sociolinguistics, grammar, or English literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>before 1500</td>
<td>ENG 503, Writer's Craft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British literature before 1800</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American literature before 1870</td>
<td>English elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature electives</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Literature electives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 698, Creative Thesis</td>
<td>1-6 ENG 698, Creative Thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>36 Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Literature electives are courses that focus on the study of literary texts. The broader category of English electives may include courses in literature, linguistics, grammar, or film.

ENL 691 and ENL 692 are three-hour courses, repeatable to nine hours. Graduate courses in creative writing may not be repeated for the purpose of replacing a grade.

Mission, market, and quality.
a. How does the proposal reflect the campus mission focus?

The proposal strengthens a graduate program that is already well-established at the College.

b. What are the market demand factors that this proposal responds to? Include program competition from other regional colleges.

Fall enrollment in graduate Creative Writing courses is at its highest level in years. Some of our graduates go on to MFA or PhD programs, and some use the MA to meet teacher certification requirements.

There is no comparable program in western New York. Among SUNY schools, Binghamton University offers MA and PhD degrees in English with Creative Writing emphasis, and Stony Brook University offers an MFA in Creative Writing. Syracuse and Cornell have highly selective MFA programs.

c. How is program quality addressed in this proposal?

The proposal creates true graduate-level workshops (ENG 691 and 692) to replace swing courses. A new requirement, Seminar in Creative Writing, is a readings course (not a workshop) that will address theory and practice. Writer's Craft, the companion course to Writers Forum, will become a requirement. Elective requirements are more flexible in the new curriculum. Finally, limiting the thesis to 3 credit hours means that students will spend more time in the workshops, which are the heart of the program. Much of the preparatory work for the thesis may be completed in the workshops.

Description of the new courses.

ENG 691, Prose Workshop. A seminar in the practice of prose writing (fiction and/or nonfiction), with particular attention given to discussion and critique of students' own work. The workshop is supplemented by readings in modern and contemporary prose, essays on craft, etc. Instructor's permission required; may be repeated twice for credit. 3 Cr.

ENG 692, Poetry Workshop. A seminar in the practice of poetry writing, with particular attention given to discussion and critique of students' own work. The workshop is supplemented by readings in modern and contemporary poetry, essays on craft, etc. Instructor's permission required; may be repeated twice for credit. 3 Cr.

N.B.: In keeping with past departmental practice, both ENG 691 and ENG 692 are repeatable workshops, at the advanced level. The core of any writing workshop is the student work. Students use the course to write new work, to revise and hone older work, and to sharpen their writing skills in every way. These skills courses focus on the process of writing rather than analyzing or studying a specific. Thus, the material "covered" in writing workshops such as these is different every semester.

ENG 603, Seminar in Creative Writing. Brings the theory and method of creative writing to the study of selected readings in poetry and/or prose. Topics will vary, but may include the lyric poem; the novel; memoir; publishing and the literary journal; prosody; and the teaching of writing. Instructor's permission required; may be repeated once for credit. 3 Cr.

Staffing.

For now, the revision will not require new staff. That will change if enrollment increases significantly; but in any case, the goal is not a large graduate program but a stronger, more visible, and more selective one.
Although this proposal eliminates swing courses and instead institutes 600-level workshops, the reality is that we have not in fact been running workshops as swing courses for the past several years, in an effort to encourage graduate students to take 600-level courses instead. The net change for our scheduling probably involves one additional 600-level course per semester. This is an adjustment that can readily be handled within our existing staffing structure (i.e., the 8 faculty who currently teach the bulk of our creative writing courses).

**Academic administration commentary.**

a. Letter of review/comment from the Graduate Dean.

b. Letter of review/comment from Dean of the School.

c. Letter of review/comment from Department Chair.

**Resources, facilities, and non-teaching staff needed to implement the program.**

No new resources, facilities, or non-teaching staff are required for this program revision.

**Letters of support from cooperating departments, agencies, institutions, etc., including a statement of probable/likely impact on departments.**

This program revision will not affect other departments at the College or other agencies or institutions.

**Facilities:**

a. **Library holdings.**

   For the purposes of this program revision, no new library holdings are needed.

b. **Research and laboratory facilities and equipment.**

   No new facilities or equipment are needed.

c. **Computer facilities and services.**

   No new facilities or services are needed.
Roger:

I approve the attached proposals for a CW certificate, CW MA revision, Lit MA revision, and change to Film Studies.

Stuart Appelle, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Science and Mathematics
350 New Campus Drive
The College at Brockport
State University of New York
Brockport, New York 14420
Dear Dr. Appelle:

I have read and support each of the program changes/innovations that Dr. Kurtz has submitted to you: The revision of the MA program in English, the revision of the Creative Writing program in English, and the creation of the Creative Writing Advanced Graduate Certificate in English. I find them to be written and designed with program quality in mind, and to be advantageous for student outcomes.

Best wishes,

Susan Stites-Doe, PhD
Dean of Graduate Studies
November 24, 2009

TO: Faculty Senate
FROM: Dr. J. Roger Kurtz, English Department Chair
RE: Proposal for Revision of the MA in English – Creative Writing

The attached proposal has been reviewed and approved by the English department graduate committee and by the department as a whole. It has also been reviewed and approved by the Dean of our School and by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

As Department Chair, I also support this proposal as I believe it will strengthen our program and the educational offerings of the College.