

Resolution 2014-15.F

Resolution to Approve New Major, Creative Writing, in Bachelor of Arts in English

Recommended by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

First Reading: September 22, 2014

Second Reading:

First Effective Date to Declare Major: Spring 2015

First Effective Date to Graduate: Spring 2016

WHEREAS, a significant number of faculty members in the Department of English have distinguished careers in Creative Writing, as evidenced by steady and significant publication of books with both national and international presses, as well as recognition by the National Endowment of the Arts, the Guggenheim foundation, the National Book Critics Award, the Whitbread Award, the Lambda Literary Award, and the Rebekah Johnson Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry from the Library of Congress; and

WHEREAS, the current option in Creative Writing is “aimed at those students who want to pursue a career as a writer of poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, or drama, or those who wish to enter the fields of publishing, editing, or any career that requires established and multi-dimensional writing skill”; and

WHEREAS, a major in Creative Writing will be more readily promoted to potential employers and make it easier for students to market themselves; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that employers increasingly value imaginative thinkers for their ability to influence and persuade, clarify ideas, problem solve, edit, and communicate clearly, all of which represent skills that successful Creative Writing students exhibit; and

WHEREAS, students graduating with the Creative Writing option have had success in gaining admission to graduate school as well as launching successful careers in fields such as writing, publishing, editing, teaching, marketing, public relations, web content development, and social media management; and

WHEREAS, developing the major in Creative Writing will provide better visibility of the program and support enrollment management of incoming freshmen and transfer students in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, as well as create greater opportunities to recruit in-state and out-of-state-students to meet enrollment targets for the department and college; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Major in Creative Writing be approved for addition to the Bachelor of Arts in English effective Spring 2015 and the proposal be forwarded to the President for approval.