

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Establish Degree Program: *Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and Poetics*,
UW Bothell Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents grant authority to the UW Bothell Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences Program to offer the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Creative Writing and Poetics degree program, effective Autumn Quarter 2011. This is a self-sustaining program offered in coordination with UW Educational Outreach (UWEO). The degree program will have provisional status with a review to be scheduled in the 2016-2017 academic year. At such time that continuing status is granted, a ten-year review cycle would begin.

BACKGROUND

In February 2010, the Graduate School received a Planning Notification of Intent (PNOI) from the graduate faculty in the Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences Program at UW Bothell requesting authority to develop the MFA in Creative Writing and Poetics degree program. The PNOI was circulated to stakeholders across campus, then submitted to the Higher Education Coordinating Board which granted permission to develop in June 2010. The full degree proposal was submitted to the Graduate School in December 2010. Implementation is planned for Autumn Quarter 2011, with the program anticipating 21 degrees granted per year at maturity.

The UWB MFA program will be distinguished from other MFA programs in the region through its uniquely defined emphases on creative writing and poetics - *why we write how we write*. This 60 credit program asks students to consider the cultural, social and technological aspects of writing—addressing how their writing relates to shifting global and transnational contexts; changing gender, race, ethnicity, and class relations; and transforming media. The program is also distinguished by its hybrid delivery system: establishing a residency program for its first year and introducing non-residency options in its second year. The UWB MFA is based on an understanding that writers engage multiple fields of knowledge in producing their work, and that most writers, including those most committed to their art forms, make a living in diverse areas of the economy, drawing on their writing talent. By making these real-life conditions part of the program itself, the UWB MFA aims not only to enhance writers' written art but also to provide them with a greater set of options in pursuing related careers.

In December 2010, the Graduate School appointed two reviewers to evaluate the MFA proposal. The reviewers both supported approval of the degree program.

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Each reviewer made specific recommendations on the program, to which the program provided detailed responses.

The Graduate School Council met on January 20, 2011, to discuss the MFA degree proposal. The Council recommended unanimously that the proposal be forwarded to the Higher Education Coordinating Board for review and approval. The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School concurred with this recommendation.

On April 26, 2011, the Higher Education Coordinating Board Education Committee discussed the full MFA proposal, which was then considered by the full Higher Education Coordinating Board on May 19, 2011. The Board approved the proposal by Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at the University of Washington Bothell to offer the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and Poetics.

The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, the Chancellor at UW Bothell, and the Provost have reviewed and approved the recommendation. The Higher Education Coordinating Board will be informed of the Board of Regents' action on the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and Poetics.