Establishing the Graduate Certificate in Textual and Digital Studies

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 Interdisciplinary Textual Studies Group in the Graduate School to offer the Graduate Certificate in Textual and Digital Studies, effective Spring Quarter 2016. This will be a state-based program. The graduate certificate program will have provisional status with a review to be scheduled for the 2021-2022 academic year. At such time that continuing status is granted, a ten-year review cycle would begin.

BACKGROUND:

In May 2014, the Graduate School established the Interdisciplinary Textual Studies Committee at the request of Graduate Faculty from the Departments of Asian Languages & Literature; Comparative Literature, Cinema & Media; English; French & Italian Studies; Near Eastern Languages and Civilization; and the Information School. The Graduate School subsequently received notification of intent to plan the Graduate Certificate in Textual & Digital Studies from the Interdisciplinary Committee in November 2015. After campus-wide stakeholder comment, the faculty developed a full proposal that was submitted to the Graduate School in December 2015. The program anticipates granting four to six certificates per year to students in programs across humanities departments, the Information School, related social science departments such as Communication and History, and related School of Art programs such as Art History and Design.

Textual Studies encompasses a broad set of disciplinary practices and fields whose central concern is the production, circulation, and reception of texts in material form. Scholars in textual studies include editors, philologists, historians of the book and of reading, manuscript and print culture specialists, comparative media historians, sociologists of literature, and digital humanists. They are all united by an attention to textual meaning as it emanates from the medium of inscription, from cuneiform tablets to tablet computers.

The proposed certificate will serve students pursuing careers in academia, where sub-specializations such as the Digital Humanities and Book and Media History are increasingly desired. The certificate will also provide technical skills that support careers related to information science, librarianship, intellectual property and copyright, archive management, and the curation of digital data and media.
Textual Studies at UW has formally existed since 1995 as a set of coordinated PhD degree options offered by 11 departments. Beginning in 2013, affiliated faculty embarked on a three-year plan for renovation of textual studies offerings in order to better reflect the current composition of UW faculty working in the field, to respond to the surge of interest in digital studies nationally, and to offer both doctoral and masters’ students broader access to coursework and certification in this area. Outcomes of this initiative include the proposed Graduate Certificate in Textual and Digital Studies; an annual cross-institutional research colloquium; an annual lecture series; revamped syllabi for textual studies graduate seminars; and a renewed role of the interdisciplinary initiative as the point of entry for digital studies at UW.

The Graduate School Council met on January 21, 2016, to discuss the graduate certificate proposal. The Council recommended that the proposal be forwarded to the Board of Regents for final approval. The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School concurred with this recommendation.

The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School and the Provost have reviewed and approved the recommendation to approve the Graduate Certificate in Textual and Digital Studies.

Attachment
New Graduate Certificate Proposal – UW Seattle
IDEA STAGE
Conversations with:
• Faculty/Deans/Chancellors;
• PCE (fee based programs);
• Office of Planning & Budgeting & Provost office;
• Other stakeholders.

DRAFT PNOI
• Faculty lead contacts the Office of Academic Affairs and Planning (OAAP) in the Graduate School for proposal guidelines;
• Submit PNOI to OAAP

PNOI COMMENT PERIOD
• 10 day stakeholder comment period (all three campuses);

GRADUATE SCHOOL COUNCIL
• Council considers proposal including final MOA;
• After presentation, unit incorporates feedback if needed;
• Graduate Dean authorizes sending proposal to Board of Regents.

FINAL PROPOSAL
• Incorporates stakeholders feedback;
• Includes final Memorandum of Agreement (for fee based programs).

DRAFT PROPOSAL
• To OAAP for Review;
• Response to academic unit on draft proposal.

BOARD OF REGENTS
• Certificate approval;
• Provost confirms Regents’ approval.

CREATE CODE
OAAP directs Registrar to create new program code.

PROGRAM LAUNCH
• Certificate Program 5 year review cycle begins.

ATTACHMENT
A–3.1/203-16
3/10/16