

MEMORANDUM

October 29, 2010

To: University Senate

From: University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction
Susan Awbrey, Chair

Re: Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing submitted by Department of English

The Department of English proposed a BA degree in Creative Writing. The University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction reviewed the proposal for the Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing and the committee voted unanimously to endorse the creation of this new major. The proposal thoroughly describes course requirements. The degree will require seven new courses. The major is targeted at both newly recruited students and current students who wish to change majors. The department predicts slow growth to 45 students over a five year period although this may prove to be a conservative estimate. Department chair Susan Hawkins and professor Edward Hoepfner met with UCUI on October 15th to address the committee's questions.

Strengths:

- This is a well thought out and comprehensive proposal
- Alumni support this new major
- Approximately 50% of universities with English majors offer creative writing majors, but only two Michigan universities offer a major in Creative Writing
- Students study a variety of literary content and styles spanning three centuries
- The proposal contained a Library report
- Proposal has the support of the Department of Writing and Rhetoric

Concerns:

All committee concerns were addressed either in discussion with the department representatives or in a revised version of the proposal.

- Needed correction in expense figures
- The addition of English 308 to the catalog course descriptions
- Identification of career opportunities
- Clarification of faculty members' specializations and publication histories
- Clarification of roles of part-time secretary and TAs
- Information on number of students interested in the major
- Clarification of project portfolio and capstone