Resolution #14, 1983-84

TO: President John E. Van de Watering

FROM: The Faculty Senate

RE: X I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination) II. Recommendation (Urging the fitness of) III. Other (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)

SUBJECT: M.A. in English/Creative Writing

(see attached)

Meeting on 2/27/84

(Date)

Signed

Marnard R. Beene

Date Sent 2/5/84

(For the Senate)

Horace E. Beene, President, Faculty Senate...

TO: The Faculty Senate

FROM: President John E. Van de Watering

RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution

a. Accepted. Effective Date

b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on

c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II., III. a. Received and acknowledged

b. Comment:

EXPLANATION: Vice Presidents: Horace E. Beene, William H. Linne

Others:

Distribution Date:

Signed: (President of the College)

Resolved by the Senate:
TO: Faculty Senate  
FROM: Graduate Policies Committee

Introduction

The Department of English at Brockport has earned a nation-wide reputation in creative writing. We regularly receive inquiries and applications from students interested in earning a graduate degree in this specialty. In order to serve these students better than in the past, the Graduate Committee is proposing a special degree emphasis leading to an M.A. in English/Creative Writing.

The new program would supplement, not replace, the existing M.A. program and would require no new staff or resources.

The Programs

### Existing M.A. Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>30-hour option</th>
<th>36-hour option</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required courses:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 hrs. EML 601 (Bibliography)</td>
<td>3 hrs. EML 572 (Crit. Approaches) or EML 601 (Bibli.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 One course in Linguistics, History of Lang., Grammar, Translation, or English Lit. before 1500</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-24 Literature Electives</td>
<td>9-12 Creative Writing Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-6 Thesis (or 2 SILT papers, no credit hours)</td>
<td>3-6 Literature Electives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Exam, based on reading list and special areas in lit. and lang.</td>
<td>3-6 Thesis (creative)</td>
</tr>
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### M.A. in English/Creative Writing

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 One course from each of the following areas: English Lit. 1500-1800, Modern Brit. Lit., American Lit. to 1865, Western American Lit.</td>
<td>6 One course from each of the following English Lit. 1500-1800, American Lit. before 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-18 Literature Electives</td>
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Rationale

The present M.A. program assures thorough historical coverage of English and American literature through either the comprehensive examination or the required "area" courses. An M.A. program in English/Creative Writing needs to balance this coverage against adequate opportunity to improve creative writing skills. Therefore, the proposed program reduces the emphasis on traditional literature courses while assuring adequate coverage of this material, especially of the older literature that is useful as a foundation but more difficult to learn on one's own. At the same time, the proposed program increases the opportunity for creative writing workshops and envisages the production of a creative thesis. Literature elective courses are retained in the proposed program to avoid overspecialization and to assure that the student indeed reflects mastery of both literature and creative writing skills.

The Bibliography course (EHL 601), required of all students in the current M.A. program for training in research skills, may be replaced in the new program by a course in critical techniques, which specialists in creative writing are likely to find more appropriate than library research skills. Knowledge of how the English language functions is desirable for students in both programs, and so a requirement in the general area of language study is retained.

Notes

1. All candidates for the M.A. in English/Creative Writing would be asked to submit sample works for evaluation as part of the admissions process. These samples amount approximately to six poems, one substantial piece of prose fiction, or one one-act play, or an equivalent combination. The Graduate Committee will appoint a three-person review board to evaluate each candidate's sample works and make recommendations on admission. Each review board would be uniquely constituted for each candidate to provide for the unique items submitted and to obviate excessive concentration of effort for faculty members.

2. It is expected that candidates for the M.A. in English/Creative Writing will write a creative thesis (for either 3 or 6 hours credit). The thesis should have a substantial expository prose preface or introduction, setting forth such matters as the candidate's theory of creative composition, how the writer relates his/her work to a literary tradition (whether part of or departing from tradition), or similar kinds of thoughts about the work produced.

3. Each candidate for the M.A. in English/Creative Writing would be required to take writing workshops from at least two different instructors.

4. The comprehensive examination required in the 30-hour option would follow the guidelines specified on page 1 above. The Committee will seek input and suggestions from the department, especially the creative writing faculty, in formulating the examination.

5. If approved, the recommended implementation date for the M.A. in English/Creative Writing program would be September 1980. Proceeding this date, the department would seek to publicize the program on a national basis.