

Memorandum

To: Members of the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs
From: Carolyn Tuohy
Date: April 9, 2002

Item Identification

School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for the establishment of a new field in Creative Writing in the MA program in English

Sponsor

Carolyn Tuohy, Vice-President, Policy Development and Associate Provost

Jurisdictional Information

The Committee approves major program and curriculum changes.

Highlights

The proposed field is intended to provide an opportunity for students with strong academic backgrounds in English who demonstrate exceptional promise as writers to develop their creative skills within an academically rigorous context of literary analysis, theory and scholarship.

The program will require the completion of 5 FCE (including a writing project equivalent to 2 FCE) and is an 18-month program.

Action Sought

Approval of the following motion:

THAT the proposal for the establishment of a new field in Creative Writing in the MA program in English, as described in the submission from the School of Graduate Studies dated February 12, 2002, be approved, effective September 2003.



School of Graduate Studies

University of Toronto

February 12, 2002

Professor Carolyn Tuohy
Vice President Policy Development
and Associate Provost
Room 206, Simcoe Hall
27 King's College Circle
University of Toronto

Dear Professor Tuohy,

At its meeting of January 29, 2002, the Council of the School of Graduate Studies approved the following motion:

THAT SGS Council approve the proposal to establish a new field of Creative Writing in the MA Program in English, effective September 2003.

The motion sheet, proposal and executive summary are attached.

On behalf of the Council of the School of Graduate Studies, I am presenting this item to you for Governing Council committees' approval.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Alderdice
Secretary to SGS Council
And Coordinator of Policy, Program and Liaison

Enc.
c.c.

R. Branch
B. Katz
S. Moore

B. Corman
J. Lalonde
L. Yee

C. Johnston
M. Marrus

Motion

School of Graduate Studies Council Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Item 7.

MOTION (/) **THAT** SGS Council approve the proposal to establish a new field of Creative Writing in the MA Program in English, effective September 2003.

See proposal and executive summary attached.

NOTE:

This proposal was approved at Division I Executive Committee at its meeting of January 17, 2002.

With SGS Council's approval, this item will go to Governing Council committees for approval and then to the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies for appraisal.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
University of Toronto

OCCGS Appraisal Brief
Proposal for a new Field in Creative Writing within the MA in English Program

Executive Summary

1. Background

The initiative for this proposal comes from a group of 8 core faculty in graduate English with expertise and experience in Creative Writing who saw this Field as a feasible innovation in our offerings. Their proposal has been refined, debated, and approved by the department's administrative committees and Council, which include both faculty and students representatives. Based on anecdotal evidence, we expect a strong interest in the program.

2. Rationale for including a new Field in Creative Writing within the MA program

We propose that creative writing configured as a field of the MA, rather than adopting the more common model of the MFA. In so doing, the Department seeks to provide an opportunity for students with strong academic background in English who demonstrate exceptional promise as writers to develop their creative skills within an academically rigorous context of literary analysis, theory, and scholarship. Candidates in this Field will be as well-qualified in all respects as other MA students to continue to a Ph.D in English if they should choose to do so.

3. Admission and Program Requirements

Minimum requirements for admission to this Field are identical with those for admission to the MA in any Field, with the additional requirement of a portfolio of creative work. Initial target enrolment is 5-7 candidates, with the first cohort admitted in September 2003. Requirements for the MA in existing Fields include 4.5 FCE or, with special permission, 2.5 FCE and a thesis. The MA in Creative Writing will require 3.0 FCE consisting of 2.0 FCE from offerings in other Fields and a new course on Creative Writing, ENG 6950Y, plus an extended writing project under supervision (weighted 2.0 FCE) equivalent to a thesis in other MA Fields. Because of this extra course-load, the MA in Creative Writing will be an 18-month program rather than the 12-month norm in other Fields in English.

4. Resource Implications

No additional faculty will be required. We will need additional resources to allow release time for a coordinator of this Field, and the Provost has invited a proposal for such funding if the new Field is approved.

5. Faculty Members Involved

Russell Brown (Professor), J. Edward Chamberlin (Professor), George Elliott Clarke (Associate Professor), Lorna Goodison (Associate Professor), Richard Greene (Associate Professor), Simon Ortiz (Associate Professor), John Reibetanz (Professor) and Rosemary Sullivan (Professor).

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Department of English

**PROPOSAL FOR A NEW FIELD IN CREATIVE WRITING WITHIN THE MA
IN ENGLISH PROGRAM**

**SUBMITTED TO THE
ONTARIO COUNCIL ON GRADUATE STUDIES
JANUARY 2002**

OCGS APRAISAL BRIEF

Proposal for a new Field in Creative Writing within the MA program

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**OCGS Appraisal Brief
Proposal for a new Field in Creative Writing within the MA in English Program**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
University of Toronto**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Brief Overview of the Graduate Programs in English

The English Department currently offers MA, MAT and PhD programs. English treats the MA as a terminal degree, not as the first year of a doctoral program, and our MA students must compete for admission to the PhD program with applicants from elsewhere.

1.2 Objectives of the MA program

The objective of the program is to refine critical and scholarly skills across a range of fields. This objective is currently achieved through either 4.5 seminar courses, each of which requires a major research paper, or (in rare cases) a combination of 2.5 such seminars and a thesis.

We propose to expand this objective to include, for a selected group of candidates, the refinement of creative skills as an aspect of critical and scholarly development. (See 1.6 below).

1.3 Method used for self-study

The proposal for a new field in Creative Writing in the MA program was generated by a committee of interested faculty who saw this as a feasible innovation in our offerings and met frequently to refine and develop their ideas. The proposal was then discussed by a Planning Committee of the graduate department which consists of student, faculty, and administrative representatives. This committee then forwarded the proposal to the Graduate Council of English, which consists of both faculty and students, where it was debated and approved.

1.4 Fields in the programs

For all three programs we offer courses and supervision in the following fields: Medieval Literature, Renaissance Literature, Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature, Romantic and Victorian Literature, Canadian Literature, American Literature, Twentieth-Century British and Irish Literature, World Literatures in English, and Aspects of Theory.

There has been no change in fields since the last appraisal. The proposed addition of a field in Creative Writing represents, however, a significant development in our offerings (See I.6 below).

1.5 Review concerns expressed in previous appraisal and actions taken

There were no concerns expressed concerning the MA program in the previous appraisal in 1995-96. The next periodic appraisal is scheduled for 2002/2003.

1.6 Special matters and innovative features

1.6.1 Rationale for including a new field in Creative Writing within the MA program

We propose that creative writing be configured as a field of the MA, rather than adopting the more common model of the MFA. In so doing, the Department seeks to provide an opportunity for students with a strong academic background in English who demonstrate exceptional promise as writers to develop their creative skills within an academically rigorous context of literary analysis, theory, and scholarship. This is, in short, not a professional program: candidates in this field will be as well-qualified in all respects as other MA students to continue to the PhD in English if they should choose to do so, although we expect that most will, like the majority of current MA candidates, treat this as a terminal program.

1.6.2 Demand and enrolment

Based on anecdotal evidence, we anticipate strong interest in this program. Initial target enrolment is 5-7 candidates, with the first cohort admitted in September 2003. Such numbers will have minimum impact on existing fields, enrolment numbers and faculty resources (See 3.2 below). This enrolment target may rise if the department is able to attract funding for stipends to appoint writers as expert instructors in workshop settings and as advisors on writing projects. Advice the department has received on availability of such funding is generally optimistic, but we have not built it into our current proposal.

2 THE FACULTY

2.1

Table 2.1

Core faculty listed by name showing rank, gender and, membership status in the graduate faculty (Full/Associate) and supervisory privileges

Name	Rank	M/F	Status	Supervisory Privileges
Russell Brown	Professor	M	Full	MA and PhD
J. Edward Chamberlin	Professor	M	Full	MA and PhD
George Elliott Clarke	Associate	M	Associate	MA
Lorna Goodison	Associate	F	Associate	MA
Richard Greene	Associate	M	Full	MA and PhD
Simon Ortiz	Associate	M	Associate	MA
John Reibetanz	Professor	M	Full	MA and PhD
Rosemary Sullivan	Professor	F	Full	MA and PhD

2.2 Graduate supervision

TABLE 2.2

Career and Current Numbers of Thesis Supervisions by Faculty Member						
	Career			Current		
Member	Master's	PhD	PDF	Master's	PhD	PDF
<i>Category 1</i>						
Brown, R.		3			1	
Clarke, G.E.						
Greene, R.	2				2	
Reibetanz, J.H.	1	5			2	
Sullivan, R.		1			2	
<i>Category 3</i>						
Chamberlin, J.E.		17 (28)			3 (5)	
<i>Category 6</i>						
Goodison, L.						
Ortiz, S.						

2.3 Current teaching assignments

Table 2.3

Teaching Assignments for 1999/00				
Faculty Member	Rank	Undergraduate ¹	Graduate ²	Comments
CATEGORY 1				
Brown, R.	Professor		9500Y- 1cr	
Clarke, G.E.	Associate			
Greene, R.	Associate	306Y - 1cr (3) 348Y - 1cr (3)		
Reibetanz, J.H.	Professor	220Y - 1cr (3) 304Y - 1cr (3)	2540Y- 1cr	
Sullivan, R.	Professor	356S - 1cr (3) 369Y - 1cr (3)		
CATEGORY 3				
Chamberlin, J.E.	Professor	369Y - 1cr (3)	5980Y- 1cr COL2650L *	
CATEGORY 6				
Goodison, L.	Associate			
Ortiz, S.	Associate			

¹ 1 credit means 2 or 3 contact hours per week per term, e.g. 1cr (2) or (3).

² 1 credit means 2 contact hours per week per term.

* Comparative Literature course.

Teaching Assignments for 2000/01				
Faculty Member	Rank	Undergraduate ¹	Graduate ²	Comments
CATEGORY 1				
Brown, R.	Professor		9500Y - 1cr	
Clarke, G.E.	Associate	253Y - 1cr (2) 354Y - 1cr (3)		
Greene, R.	Associate	140Y - 1cr (3) 306Y - 1cr (3)	3553F - 1cr	
Reibetanz, J.H.	Professor	302Y - 1cr (3) 304Y - 1cr (3) 456F - 1cr (2)		
Sullivan, R.	Professor			
CATEGORY 3				
Chamberlin, J.E.	Professor	349F - 1cr (3)	5995Y - 1cr COL2250Y *	
CATEGORY 6				
Goodison, L.	Associate	201Y - 1cr (3) 369Y - 1cr (2)		
Ortiz, S.	Associate			

¹ 1 credit means 2 or 3 contact hours per week per term, e.g. 1cr (2) or (3).

² 1 credit means 2 contact hours per week per term.

* Comparative Literature course.

Teaching Assignments for 2001/02				
Faculty Member	Rank	Undergraduate ¹	Graduate ²	Comments
CATEGORY 1				
Brown, R.	Professor		9500Y - 1cr	
Clarke, G.E.	Associate	223F - 1cr (3) 277Y - 1cr (3)	5900Y - 1cr	
Greene, R.	Associate			
Reibetanz, J.H.	Professor	120Y - 1cr (3) 302Y - 1cr (3)	5965Y - 1cr	
Sullivan, R.	Professor	354Y - 1cr (3) 430F - 1cr (2) 431S - 1cr (2)		
CATEGORY 3				
Chamberlin, J.E.	Professor	349F - 1cr (3)	5980Y - 1cr COL2250Y *	
CATEGORY 6				
Goodison, L.	Associate	369Y - 1cr (2)		
Ortiz, S.	Associate	254Y - 1cr (3) 369Y - 1cr (2)		

¹ 1 credit means 2 or 3 contact hours per week per term, e.g. 1cr (2) or (3).

² 1 credit means 2 contact hours per week per term.

* Comparative Literature course.

3 PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

3.1 Student Financial Support

While all PhD candidates in English are guaranteed financial support for 5 years, MA candidates in English are not funded, and students in the new field will not be exceptions. We will undertake to raise endowment funding, however, and expect we may over time be able to provide some financial support for students in this field.

3.2 Other Resource Implications

No additional faculty will be required. We will need some additional resources to allow release time for a coordinator of this field, and the Provost has invited a proposal for such funding if the new field is approved

4 PROGRAM REGULATIONS AND COURSES

4.1. Admission requirements.

Minimum requirements for admission to this field are identical with those for admission to the MA in any field, with the additional requirement of a portfolio of creative work. We anticipate considerable interest in this program and expect appeals to grant exceptions from academic requirements for candidates showing high creative skills. However, since candidates in this field will be members of our regular seminars (see below 4.4.2), we will require some experience with the new program before giving consideration to the possibility of allowing exceptional evidence of potential in the writing samples and supporting letters to compensate for insufficiencies in the other requirements for admission.

4.2 Program Requirements.

Requirements for the MA in existing fields include 4.5 FCE (Full Course Equivalents) or, with special permission, 2.5 FCE and a thesis. All courses are taught exclusively by tenured and tenure-stream faculty as seminars, with enrolments normally limited to 12. The MA in Creative Writing will require 3.0 FCE—2.0 FCE from offerings in other fields, and a new course, ENG 6950Y (description below 4.4.4) plus an extended writing project under supervision (weighted 2.0 FCE) equivalent to a thesis in other MA fields.

4.3 Part-time studies

Candidates in any current field for the MA may proceed by part-time studies, and the same option will apply to the proposed field.

4.4 Core Requirement.

ENG 6950Y Creative Writing

This seminar-workshop is required of all candidates for the MA in Creative Writing. It consists of units in poetry, prose, and dramatic writing; students are required to undertake work in all three units. These units are designed to develop understanding of and skill in the craft of different genres, and will include analysis of both well-known works in each genre and students' work. Each student will be required to identify one genre for

specialization in their MA writing project, and the course will include work toward that project. The course will also include work in bibliography specifically designed to enhance creative as well as scholarly enquiry.

4.5 Time to degree

Currently the MA is a 12-month program, regardless of field. The MA in Creative Writing, however, will be an 18-month program. This corresponds to course-load norms in The School of Graduate Studies. It should also signal that candidates begin work on the writing project no later than the summer at the end of the first MA year, and assumes some preliminary work on the project will develop out of the core course.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Department of English

Office of the Chair
(416) 978-3197

7 King's College Circle
Toronto, Ontario M5S 3K1

23 January 2002

Professor Bernard Katz
Associate Dean, Division I
School of Graduate Studies

Dear Professor Katz,

I herewith submit a copy of the *OCGS Appraisal Brief* and *Executive Summary* to document a proposal from the Department of English to establish a new Field in Creative Writing within our M.A. program.

The proposal was generated from a group of core faculty in the graduate program and has been revised, debated and approved by the appropriate committees of the department and its Graduate Council.

Yours sincerely,



Brian Corman
Professor and Chair