

**STATUS REPORT ON RECENTLY ESTABLISHED (3-4 YEARS) DEGREE
PROGRAMS AND TRACKS
(authorized January 2000-December 2001)**

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Date: 23 May 2005

Constituent Institution: University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Discipline Specialty Title: Creative Writing

Discipline Specialty Number: 230501 Level: B x M _____ I _____ Prof. _____ D _____

Specify Type of Degree (e.g. B.S., B.A., M.A., M.S., Ed.D., Ph.D.): BFA

Program Tracks (if any): Fiction, Poetry, Creative Nonfiction

Date Established: Authorized September 7, 2000; first catalogue year 2001/2002

If the program has not yet been established, why not?

Headcount Enrollment, as projected in Request for Authorization to Establish, and Actual Headcount Enrollment (upper division program majors, juniors and seniors only, for baccalaureate programs):

| <u>1st Year</u> (2001-02) | <u>2nd Year</u> (2002-03) | <u>3rd Year</u> (2003-04) | <u>4th year</u> (2004-05) |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Projected/Actual | Projected/Actual | Projected/Actual | Projected/Actual |
| <u>20</u> <u>46</u> | <u>35</u> <u>59</u> | <u>45</u> <u>61</u> | <u>65</u> <u>71</u> |

Degrees Conferred to Date:

| <u>1st Year</u> (2001-02) | <u>2nd Year</u> (2002-03) | <u>3rd Year</u> (2003-04) |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Projected/Actual | Projected/Actual | Projected/Actual |
| <u>8</u> <u>11</u> | <u>23</u> <u>25</u> | <u>25</u> <u>23</u> |

Ninety-eight BFA degrees have been conferred to date. (65 students is the maximum number of BFA majors the department can teach, given its approximately 75 MFA students, undergraduate minors, and general students. It plans to confer approximately 24 BFA degrees per year).

Resources: Describe the resources that have been allocated to this program, the adequacy of these resources, and plans to remedy any deficiencies.

Faculty Eleven tenure or tenure-track; 3 lecturers; 3-4 Distinguished Visiting Writers annually; with 26 graduate teaching assistants. The number of faculty is adequate provided neither the MFA nor the BFA program increases substantially in student enrollments. Since both the MFA and BFA programs limit enrollment by applications, the department can maintain its current size by selecting only the most qualified writing students. This will maintain current enrollments but increase the quality of students in each program.

Staff The department employs one full-time office assistant. Given the number of faculty—regular, part-time, and visiting—and graduate teaching assistants who teach independent courses and given the department's extensive programs of visiting writers, outreach into the regional junior high and high

schools, its Publishing Laboratory, and its new national literary magazine, one full-time office assistant is inadequate. If the department is to continue all of its current activities and to expand into such other outreach activities as offering writing workshops to members of the local community, it needs an additional staff person. The request for additional staff has been a long-standing priority and unless it is met the department must curtail many of its current activities.

Libraries Use of Randall Library and its interlibrary loan service are sufficient for the department's needs.

Equipment All faculty members have a computer and printer, and this equipment is sufficient for their needs. The Publishing Laboratory has eight computers as well as publishing and binding equipment, but that means only eight students can enroll in editing, publishing, and other courses. The department needs an additional eight computer stations in the Publishing Laboratory—and the space to house them—in order to offer publishing classes to 16 students per course. It also needs space other than a faculty member's office, where production on *Ecotone*, the department's new national literary magazine, can take place.

Facilities The department has exclusive use of two classrooms, Morton Hall 106 and 214, a main office, fourteen faculty offices (including one for visiting faculty), and a shared trailer office for graduate teaching assistants. The trailer space is woefully inadequate for graduate students who need private office space to confer with students about their writing. It also sends students in Basic Studies and other introductory courses a lamentable message that they must hold individual conferences with their instructors in a large, dreary space that affords no privacy. The planned renovations in Kenan Hall, where teaching assistants will share private offices, the Publishing Laboratory will have space for sixteen computing stations, and both the Pub Lab and *Ecotone* will have production rooms, should rectify the current shortage of equipment and office space. . Under current plans, however, no provision has been made for new furnishings or equipment for the renovated building so that need must be met for the department and its programs to function.

Curriculum: Has the curriculum been developed as indicated in the request to establish proposal?

Yes

Are any modifications planned?

Minor modifications in course descriptions for workshop courses are planned so that the sequence of workshops in each genre—poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction—will be more coherent at the introductory, intermediate, and advanced levels. A new set of courses in publishing and editing, leading to a certificate, have been approved by the department faculty.

The department will also propose a new course to help meet the Basic Studies requirement in writing. Such a course, staffed primarily by second- and third-year graduate teaching assistants, will help relieve the current burden of offering Basic Studies in writing staffed by part-time faculty in the Department of English. By assuming the shared burden of teaching a Basic Studies course in writing, the Department of Creative Writing will come closer to assuming complete responsibility for the training of its graduate teaching assistants. It will also strengthen the department's case for increasing the number of teaching assistants. Such an increase will reduce the college's reliance upon part-time faculty since graduate teaching assistants are not counted as part-time faculty. An increase in teaching assistants will also save the college a significant amount of money since second- and third-year teaching assistants teach four sections of introductory course for an annual stipend currently set at \$8500 (or \$2125 per section), while part-time faculty are paid upwards of \$3200 per course section—a savings of more than \$1000 per course. By being able to offer teaching assistantships to more applicants, the department will increase the quality of its already very qualified students and be able to compete more effectively with schools such as

