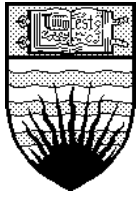


# THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



November 1, 2007

## ACADEMIC POLICY & CURRICULUM COMMITTEES

### Vancouver Senate

2016 - 1874 East Mall

Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6T 1Z1

Tel: (604) 822-9952 Fax: (604) 822-5945

christopher.eaton@ubc.ca

To: Senate  
From: Academic Policy Committee & Curriculum Committee  
Re: Reorganization of the Department of Theatre, Film, & Creative Writing

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Our two committees have reviewed the material prepared by the Faculty of Arts for the reorganization of Creative Writing at UBC. The attached documents set out the rationale for this request.

We are pleased to recommend that Senate approves as follows:

*That the study of Creative Writing be established as an independent interdisciplinary program within the Faculty of Arts;*

*That all programs or components of programs offered by the Creative Writing division in the Department of Theatre, Film, & Creative Writing be transferred to the Faculty of Arts (Independent Interdisciplinary Program in Creative Writing) as set out in the attached curriculum report and associated category 2 changes to be considered by the Curriculum Committee; and*

*That the Department of Theatre, Film, & Creative Writing be renamed the Department of Theatre & Film.*

NB: Faculty Appointments in Creative Writing will formally remain with the Department of Theatre & Film for the purposes of considerations of promotion & tenure and other aspects of the collective agreement between UBC and the Faculty Association.

# THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



**Provost and Vice President Academic**

6328 Memorial Road  
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z2

Tel: 604-822-4948

Fax: 604-822-3134

## MEMORANDUM

October 22, 2007

To: Senate Academic Policy Committee, for Senate  
c/o Lisa Collins, Assistant Registrar, Senate and Curriculum Services

From: David H. Farrar  
Provost and Vice President Academic

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'DH Farrar'.

**Re: Reorganization of the Department of Theatre, Film, and Creative Writing**

### Recommendation:

I recommend that the Senate Academic Policy Committee consider the proposal to establish Creative Writing as an independent interdisciplinary program within the Faculty of Arts, and the renaming of the Department of Theatre, Film, and Creative Writing as the Department of Theatre and Film, effective December 1, 2007, and forward its recommendation to approve to Senate at its meeting of November 14, 2007.

This proposal was approved by the Faculty of Arts at its meeting on September 25, 2007.

The Summary, Background and Rationale, dated October 3, 2007, forwarded by Dr. Nancy Gallini, Dean, Faculty of Arts, are attached.

Attachment: Memorandum dated October 18, 2007, from Nancy Gallini, Dean of Arts, to David Farrar, Provost, regarding: Proposed unit reorganization – Department of Theatre, Film, and Creative Writing

# THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



## MEMORANDUM

Faculty of Arts  
Office of the Dean  
1866 Main Mall  
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z1

Tel: 604-822-3828  
Fax: 604-822-6096

OFFICE OF THE VP ACADEMIC AND PROVOST	
OCT 19 2007	
ACTION	FYI:
respond _____	advise _____
draft _____	other _____

To: David Farrar, VP Academic and Provost

From: Nancy Gallini, Dean, Faculty of Arts

Date: October 18, 2007 *(revised version to replace memo dated October 3, 2007)*

Re: **Proposed unit reorganization—*Department of Theatre, Film, and Creative Writing***

The Faculty of Arts met on September 25, 2007 and voted in favour of the following proposal. I hope you could present this to Senate at the meeting on November 14.

Proposal to establish a “Department of Theatre and Film” and a “Creative Writing Program”

*Proposed Senate Motion:*

**That the Senate approve the establishment of Creative Writing as an independent interdisciplinary program within the Faculty of Arts, and the renaming of the Department of Theatre, Film, and Creative Writing as the Department of Theatre and Film.**

Background and Rationale:

This is to propose that UBC (Vancouver) Creative Writing be established as an independent interdisciplinary program within the Faculty of Arts, effective for the 2008 / 2009 academic year.

The present UBC Department of Theatre, Film, and Creative Writing (TFCW) was created in 1995. This proposal further develops that initiative by establishing the Creative Writing curriculum and faculty as an Independent Interdisciplinary Program and renaming the Department accordingly. Under the proposed administrative configuration the Department of Theatre and Film will offer the following presently existing degree programs: BA in Theatre; BA in Drama; BFA in Theatre Design and Production; BFA in Acting; MA, MFA, and PhD in Theatre; BA and MA in Film Studies; BFA and MFA in Film Production, and Diploma in Film and Television Production. The Creative Writing Program will offer the presently existing BFA and MFA in Creative Writing, the Diploma in Applied Creative Non-Fiction, and joint MFA degrees with Film and Theatre.

The reconfigured Department of Theatre and Film, with sixteen full-time tenure-track faculty members, will meet UBC's published requirements for departmental status within the Faculty of Arts. The renamed department will be better able to carry on its degree programs and production activities within a more coherent and efficient administrative structure and integrate academic and production elements more fully across the two closely related disciplines of Theatre and Film.

The reconfigured Creative Writing Program will meet all the UBC requirements for independent interdisciplinary program status within the Faculty of Arts. Current Creative Writing faculty members will thus hold joint appointments in Creative Writing and Theatre and Film; their reappointment, promotion, and tenure processes will be conducted in accordance with the UBC Policy on Joint Appointments. The Department of Theatre and Film will be designated the "home department" for current fulltime tenured/tenure-track faculty. (There exist several precedents for this arrangement in the Faculty of Arts, such as faculty with joint appointments in the interdisciplinary Women's and Gender Studies Program and the interdisciplinary First Nations Studies Program.) Future appointments, if they are joint appointments in Creative Writing, will be made in accordance with the UBC Policy on Joint Appointments.

The separation into two independent units will strengthen the effectiveness and governance of the programs, will heighten the recognition of each within and external to the university, and will encourage the development of new initiatives.

While philosophical and academic links among the three programs exist and will continue to develop, external reviews and an internal review in past years support an administrative reconfiguration. The UBC Creative Writing Program is recognized as Canada's foremost academic creative writing unit. With a relatively large graduate enrollment and unique needs, the Creative Writing Program is best supported as an autonomous program. The Theatre and Film programs have historical roots at UBC dating from 1915 and have trained many of the top professionals in the Canadian theatre, film, and television industries, as well as sustaining high-level academic training and leading-edge scholarship in these disciplines. Separation establishes the Department of Theatre and Film and the Creative Writing Program as distinct units within the Faculty of Arts and affords each discipline an appropriate individual brand at the university and in the outside world.

This re-structuring will be cost neutral; any expenses will be absorbed within the Faculty's present funding allocation to the department and program. The Faculty of Arts supports this proposal, and it is anticipated that the Faculty of Graduate Studies will agree that the separation will better serve graduate students.

The creation of both the Department of Theatre and Film and the Creative Writing Program is viewed by all faculty in the Theatre, Film, and Creative Writing Department as a crucial next step to effectively advance the academic vision of the creative and performing arts at UBC.

#### Summary:

Faculty in the Department of Theatre, Film and Creative Writing recognize that a division of the Department into two independent units would enhance effective governance, heighten recognition of the units within and outside the University, and encourage the development of new academic initiatives. Creative Writing faculty have voted unanimously to become an independent unit separate from Theatre & Film. Theatre & Film faculty have voted overwhelmingly to support Creative Writing's aspirations. The Department of Theatre, Film and Creative Writing recommends to the Faculty of Arts that Creative Writing be established as an independent interdisciplinary program within the Faculty of Arts. The Theatre and Film faculty support the realignment of their programs within the Department after the disengagement of Creative Writing. It is further recommended that the Department of Theatre, Film and Creative Writing be renamed the Department of Theatre and Film.



## UBC Curriculum Proposal Form Change to Course or Program

### Category: (1)

<b>Faculty:</b> Arts <b>Department:</b> Theatre, Film, and Creative Writing <b>Faculty Approval Date:</b> <b>Effective Session</b> <u>Winter</u> <b>Term</b> <u>1</u> <b>Year</b> <u>2008</u> <b>for Change</b>	<b>Date:</b> May 15 2007 <b>Contact Person:</b> Jerry Wasserman, Linda Svendsen, (Robert Gardiner) <b>Phone:</b> 2 8607 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:jerrywas@interchange.ubc.ca">jerrywas@interchange.ubc.ca</a> , <a href="mailto:svensend@interchange.ubc.ca">svensend@interchange.ubc.ca</a> , ( <a href="mailto:rag3@interchange.ubc.ca">rag3@interchange.ubc.ca</a> )
	<b>Rationale:</b> The Creative Writing Program becomes an independent interdisciplinary Program within the Faculty of Arts, and the present Department of Theatre, Film, and Creative Writing is re-named "Department of Theatre and Film."  The Creative Writing program is presently a distinct Program within the Department of Theatre, Film, and Creative Writing, having separate budgets, endowments, degree programs, courses, and administrative and secretarial staff. Creative Writing offers a BFA, an MFA, a Diploma and two "joint" MFA degrees (with Theatre and Film). Creative Writing courses are nearly all taught by the workshop method; admission to the degree programs and to each senior course is competitive and based on a writing submission. The majority of students are in the CW MFA programs.  The Creative Writing Program has close interdisciplinary relationships with the School of Archival and Information Studies, the School of Music, Department of English, the Film and Theatre programs, and some interdisciplinary relationship with the School of Journalism. Students in all these areas participate in Creative Writing courses and may count those courses toward various degrees. The present Departmental structure has made developing interdisciplinary curricula with these units an unwieldy process, and has tended to prevent additional development with these and other programs. The transformation of Creative Writing into an independent program will not draw upon the teaching resources of these other programs and departments any more than at present. Nor will these other units have any



	<p>representation within Creative Writing's governing structure.</p> <p>The name "Department of Theatre, Film, and Creative Writing" is not found at any other University, and gives a false impression. This has been a significant impediment to marketing and branding for both the Theatre and Creative Writing Programs, which are widely renowned as independent Programs but have little or no identity as a "Department with Three Names."</p> <p>Given these considerations—and the fact that according to Senate policy, Creative Writing is too small to exist as a separate department (minimum 15 faculty required)—Creative Writing would be far more appropriately identified as an independent interdisciplinary program, similar to Women's Studies or First Nation's Studies. This will clarify the relationships between Creative Writing curriculum and other disciplines in Arts, and allow stronger relationships to develop (as well as clarify the relationships among Creative Writing, Theatre, and Film).</p> <p>There are no immediate or predicted financial consequences of this change. Creative Writing faculty would be cross-appointed to a "home" Department (Theatre and Film). No new courses are required; appropriate curriculum for interdisciplinary courses already exists. No new staff, faculty, or facilities are required.</p> <p>All faculty and staff in the Department see this as a very innovative, beneficial and forward-looking change</p>
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