

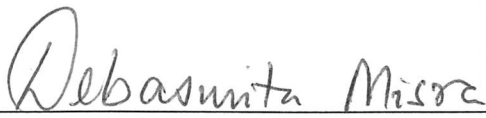
The UAF Faculty Senate passed the following at Meeting #214, April 4, 2016:

MOTION:

The UAF Faculty Senate moves to approve a new minor in Creative Writing, housed in the English Department at the College of Liberal Arts.

Effective: Fall 2016

Rationale: There is a strong interest in creative writing among UAF's students. However, currently creative writing courses can only be used to satisfy (h) or (w) requirements, or as electives. This minor aims to satisfy student demand for creative writing to constitute a formal part of a degree program.



President, UAF Faculty Senate

APPROVAL: 

Chancellor's Office

DATE: 

DISAPPROVED: _____
Chancellor's Office

DATE: _____

Overview:

Creative writing is already an important and high-profile discipline in CLA: the English Department offers an MFA in Creative Writing (with 30 students currently enrolled), as well as a combined MFA/MA degree (creative writing/literature). The faculty expertise and program-strengthening structures necessary for the MFA will form a solid basis for the minor: the English Department already has the faculty needed to run the minor, hosts the Midnight Sun Visiting Writer Series (which brings high-profile writers to UAF to present their work, provide craft talks, and meet one-on-one with students to discuss their writing), and is home to two creative writing journals: the undergraduate journal, *Ice Box* and the graduate journal, *Permafrost*.

The minor in creative writing will build on an already necessary restructuring of the undergraduate creative writing curriculum. The proposed new curriculum replaces the current three introductory genre-specific courses (ENGL F271, F272, F273 that focus on fiction, poetry and nonfiction respectively) with a multi-genre introductory course, offering genre-specific courses in fiction, nonfiction and poetry at the 300-level, and offering the existing Topics in Creative Writing as a 400-level course. Such a restructuring makes for a more pedagogically sound curriculum, providing students a suite of courses that starts with the teaching of principles and skills applicable across the genres then progresses towards more advanced study at the 300- and 400-level.

Proposed Minor Requirements:

Complete the following:

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1. ENGL F270X Introduction to Creative Writing 3 credits
2. Two of the following:
 - ENGL F375 W: Intermediate Creative Writing: Fiction (h) 3 credits
 - ENGL F376 W: Intermediate Creative Writing: Poetry (h) 3 credits
 - ENGL F377 W: Intermediate Creative Writing: Nonfiction (h) 3 credits
3. Two of the following:
 - ENGL F470 W: Topics in Creative Writing (h) 3 credits
 - ENGL F471 W: Undergraduate Writers' Workshop (h) 3 credits
 - ENGL F488 W: Dramatic Writing (h) 3 credits
4. Minimum credits required: 15 credits

Relationship to Purposes of the University:

Shaping Alaska's Future asserts that to preserve local traditions, UA should position itself as "a major center of culture and the arts in Alaska." By offering a minor in creative writing, UAF will be further aligning itself with this mission, providing a means to nurture artistic talent and foster Alaska's culture in Interior Alaska. Undergraduate students whose passion lies in artistic and cultural expression through writing will be more likely to attend UAF if creative writing is offered as a formal part of their degree; by addressing their interests and providing a formal means to explore them, UAF will be more likely to engage and retain these students. There is existing demand from students for creative writing to form a recognized part of their degree program. UAF already provides formal study of the arts at the undergraduate level in music, theatre and art. By formalizing creative writing, the arts programs offered at UAF overall will be strengthened.