



# The University of Georgia®

Office of the Vice President for Instruction

January 13, 2011

## UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2010-2011

Mr. David E. Shipley, Chair

Agricultural and Environmental Sciences - Dr. T. Dean Pringle

Arts and Sciences - Dr. Roxanne Eberle (Arts)

Dr. Rodney Mauricio (Sciences)

Business - Dr. James S. Linck

Ecology - Dr. James W. Porter

Education - Dr. Yvette Q. Getch

Environment and Design - Mr. Scott S. Weinberg

Family and Consumer Sciences - Dr. Jan M. Hathcote

Forestry and Natural Resources - Dr. Sarah F. Covert

Journalism and Mass Communication - Dr. Alison F. Alexander

Law – No representative

Pharmacy - Dr. Keith N. Herist

Public and International Affairs - Dr. Jerome S. Legge

Public Health – Dr. Marsha M. Black

Social Work - Dr. Stacey R. Kolomer

Veterinary Medicine - Dr. K. Paige Carmichael

Graduate School - Dr. Malcolm R. Adams

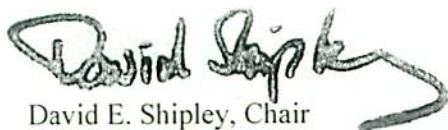
Undergraduate Student Representative – Mr. Stephen Thompson

Graduate Student Representative – Ms. Lauren Moret

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal to deactivate the major in Creative Writing (M.F.A.) will be an agenda item for the January 19, 2011, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,



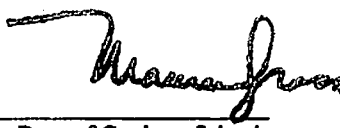


David E. Shipley, Chair  
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost Jere W. Morehead  
Dr. Laura D. Jolly

**OUTLINE FOR DEACTIVATION OR TERMINATION  
OF A GRADUATE OR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM**

**I. Basic Information**

1. Institution <u>University of Georgia</u>	Date <u>8/12/2010</u>	
2. School/College <u>Arts &amp; Sciences</u>		
3. Department/Division <u>English</u>		
4. Program Degree <u>MFA</u>		
Major <u>English (Creative Writing)</u>		
5. Deactivation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or Termination <input type="checkbox"/>		
6. Last date students will be admitted to this program <u>SP. 2010</u>		
7. Last date students will graduate from this program <u>FALL 2011</u>		
8. Abstract of the deactivated or terminated program <i>Provide a brief summary of the deactivated or terminated program that includes an overview and highlights of the response to the criteria in Section II.</i>		
9. Signatures		
 _____ Department Head	 _____ Dean of School/College	 _____ Dean of Graduate School

**II. Conditions for Deactivating or Terminating Programs**

The deactivation (temporary suspension) or termination (discontinuation) of programs is expected to address satisfactorily the conditions listed below in order to be approved and implemented within the University of Georgia. Please provide sufficient information to confirm each condition.

1. Provide copies of the studies and decisions that warrant deactivation or termination of the program.
2. State the reasons for deactivating or terminating the program.
3. State the plans for allowing those students already in a program to complete degree requirements.
4. What will be done to minimize the impact of deactivation or termination of the program upon the personal and professional lives of the faculty involved?
5. What will be done to insure that deactivation or termination of the program does not weaken other programs (graduate, undergraduate, or professional) for which the department may be responsible?
6. What plans, if any, is there for subsequent reactivation or reinstatement, respectively, of the deactivated or terminated program?



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# The University of Georgia

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Franklin College of Arts and Sciences  
*Department of English*

Dear Garnett Stokes  
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences  
UGA

August 12, 2010

Dear Dean Stokes,

I am enclosing an application I would like to submit to Dean Grasso to deactivate the MFA in Creative Writing for two years. If you approve, would you please sign the cover sheet and then send the complete application on to the Graduate School?

Many thanks,

Adam Parkes  
Professor and Graduate Coordinator

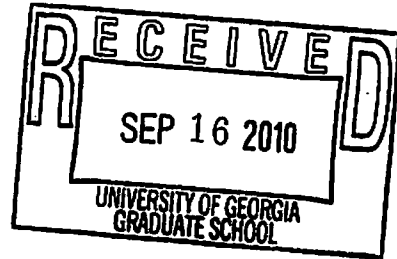


# The University of Georgia

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences  
*Department of English*

Dean Maureen Grasso  
Graduate School  
UGA

August 12, 2010



Dear Dean Grasso,

I am writing to request deactivation of the MFA program in Creative Writing for two years beginning this Fall. This is a decision that I have reached in consultation with the Creative Writing Faculty, the Head of the English Department, and the English Department Graduate Committee.

The reasons for this request are simple. First of all, we cannot compete for the best students with the many, many other MFA programs in the country, a good number of which offer their students full funding beginning in the first year. In the U.S., there are currently 170 MFA programs in Creative Writing, in addition to 102 MA programs. These figures may be gleaned from various public resources including the following website: [www.newpages.com/creative-writing-programs-graduate](http://www.newpages.com/creative-writing-programs-graduate). Many of those programs are quite large, in terms of faculty and student numbers, and (to repeat the most important point) they give their first-year students generous funding. Our MFA program, however, offers no funding to incoming students except to those few who occasionally win GSA's. While we are extremely grateful for the support that some of our MFA students have received from the Graduate School, it's hard to compete for the best students on a regular basis with MFA programs that guarantee funding to all the students they admit.

The situation concerning our Ph.D. program in Creative Writing is quite different, and it is there that we wish to concentrate our resources. There are only 30 Ph.D. programs in Creative Writing in the country, and in terms of quality there are only five that can compete with ours (the universities of Houston, Denver, Western Michigan, Missouri, and Utah). Further, our program distinguishes itself from other Ph.D. programs by its aesthetic diversity. Each of the four full-time members of the Creative Writing faculty approaches the craft of writing—and of teaching writing—in a very different way from the others, so that the program as a whole is able to offer students an unusually broad range of approaches. Of the other top five Ph.D. programs in Creative Writing, only one (Utah) comes close to offering students this sort of aesthetic and pedagogical range. Because all of our entering Ph.D. students receive full funding for their first five years, we are confident that this program will continue to distinguish itself from its few national competitors and will therefore continue to recruit some of the very best creative writing students in the country.

Adam Parkes • Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator  
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Focusing on the Ph.D. program in Creative Writing, and deactivating the MFA program, will also enhance the quality of instruction for our Ph.D. students. At present, Ph.D. and MFA students take Creative Writing seminars together. This situation has proved quite unsatisfactory, as all of the Creative Writing faculty attest, because the students in the two programs are nearly always operating at very different levels. The qualitative differences between the students in the two programs are accentuated, in the case of Creative Writing, by the factors adduced above concerning funding and nationwide competition. Given the size of our faculty in Creative Writing (four full-time professors is not a big number), it's impossible for us to offer separate courses for students in different programs; we can only just manage to staff two graduate courses in Creative Writing per term as it is. And, since it's extremely unlikely that we will be able to hire a significant number of new Creative Writing faculty in the coming years, that situation is unlikely to change. In our view, then, it will make good pedagogical sense both for the Creative Writing Program and for the English Graduate Program as a whole to focus our resources on the Ph.D. in Creative Writing and to admit Creative Writing students only to that program

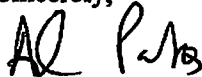
Students who are currently enrolled in the MFA will, of course, continue until they complete their degrees; they will continue to receive the full attention of their professors in Creative Writing and in the Department.

The deactivation of the MFA program will cause no difficulties for the faculty teaching in that area. On the contrary, all of the faculty in Creative Writing support deactivation, for the reasons given above.

We wish to deactivate the MFA program for a trial period of two years. During that period, we will explore avenues for acquiring the funding we would need to attract high-caliber MFA students, and will then reassess the situation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Adam Parkes  
Professor and Graduate Coordinator