**Major Assessment Report – MFA Creative Writing (2016-17)**

Please download this document and provide a response to each question in the appropriate section. Send your assessment reports to the Director of Assessment, Dr. Melissa Jordine (mjordine@csufresno.edu). (Reports can be sent to Dr. Jordine via campus mail to mailstop SS 21). Please complete a separate report for each B.A/B.S. and M.A/M.S. program offered by the department.

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| 1. **What learning outcome(s) did you assess this year?** List all program outcomes you assessed (if you assessed an outcome not listed on your department SOAP please indicate explain). Do not describe the measures or benchmarks in this section. Also please only describe major assessment activities in this report. No GE assessment was required for the 2016-2017 academic year.

For 2016-17, Creative Writing MFA faculty did not directly assess/measure one specific SLO. However, the faculty did indirectly assess/measure all of the SLOs.  |
| 1. **What assignment or survey did you use to assess the outcomes and what method (criteria or rubric) did you use to evaluate the assignment?** If the assignment (activity, survey, etc.) does not correspond to the activities indicated in the timeline on the SOAP, please indicate why. Please clearly indicate how the assignment/survey is able to measure a specific outcome. If after evaluating the assessment you concluded that the measure was not clearly aligned or did not adequately measure the outcome please discuss this in your report. Please include the benchmark or standard for student performance in your assessment report (if it is stated in your SOAP then this information can just be copied into the report). An example of an expectation or standard would be “On outcome 2.3 we expected at least 80% of students to achieve a score of 3 or above on the rubric.”

To indirectly assess/measure all of the SLOs, an Exit Survey was given to the 10 degree candidates, with questions that measured student experiences with our program SLOs. There were 5 respondents, for a 50% response rate.Notable responses: — 100% of respondents listed “writing skills” in answer to question *How has the MFA program most prepared you for the professional world?* And 100% of respondents listed “writing skills development” in answer to question *In your view, what should be the MFA program’s main objectives?* (Objectives 2.1 and 2.2)— 100% of respondents listed “learning what is publishable and what is not” in answer to question *What were the most valuable experiences in working with the professional publishing and editing aspects of the MFA program?* And 100% of respondents said “yes” in answer to question *Have you participated in the professional publishing and editing aspects of the MFA program?* (Objective 3)— Zero respondents listed “knowledge of literary theory and history” in answer to question *What were the most important things you gained from the MFA program?* And 20% of respondents listed “training in literary theory and history” in answer to question *In your view, what should be the MFA program’s main objectives?* (Objectives 1.1 and 1.2) |
| 1. **What did you discover from the data?** Discuss the student performance in relation to your standards or expectations. Be sure to clearly indicate how many students did (or did not) meet the standard for each outcome measured. Where possible, indicate the relative strengths and weaknesses in student performance on the outcome(s).

MFA candidates reported their experiences were very positive in Goal areas 2 and 3, having to do with writing skills and understanding of forms, genres, and aesthetic principles. That was expected. However, MFA candidates reported their experiences were not positive in Goal area 1, having to do with theoretical and historical contexts of literature. |
| 1. **What changes did you make as a result of the data?** Describe how the information from the assessment activity was reviewed and what action was taken based on the analysis of the assessment data.

It is likely that the exit survey questions will need to be reviewed for clarity and for more direct connection with the goals and SLOs being assessed. |
| 1. **What assessment activities will you be conducting in the 2017-2018 AY?** List the outcomes and measures or assessment activities you will use to evaluate them. These activities should be the same as those indicated on your current SOAP timeline; if they are not please explain.

AY 2017-18 assessment activity will focus on direct measure of the MFA exit exam. A draft rubric has been introduced, reviewed by faculty, and approved to provide both quantitative data and narrative comments on student work. The activity will primarily assess Goal area 1. |
| 1. **What progress have you made on items from your last program review action plan?** Please provide a brief description of progress made on each item listed in the action plan. If no progress has been made on an action item, simply state “no progress.”

Continuing assessment activities as prescribed in the SOAP.**Additional Guidelines:** If you have not fully described the assignment then please attach a copy of the questions or assignment guidelines. If you are using a rubric and did not fully describe this rubric (or the criteria being used) than please attach a copy of the rubric. If you administered a survey please consider attaching a copy of the survey so that the Learning Assessment Team (LAT) can review the questions.Exit Survey questions:1. Years in program2. Graduation semester and year3. Genre4. Undergraduate major5. How has the MFA program most prepared you for the professional world?6. Have you participated in the professional publishing and editing aspects of the MFA program?7. How is the MFA program most enhanced by its extracurricular opportunities, such as events, student orgs, and publishing projects?8. Were you a full-time student or part-time?9. What are your current long-term career goals?10. What was your primary reason for choosing the Fresno State MFA program?11. At what school did you complete your undergraduate work?12. In your view, what should be the MFA program’s main objectives?13. How the did the MFA program help you most as a literary artist?14. What were the most valuable experiences in working with the professional publishing and editing aspects of the MFA program?15. What extracurricular activities have you participated in?16. What were the most important things you gained from the Fresno State MFA program?17. Thinking of how the program’s culminating experiences support your long-term professional goals, describe your experience with the thesis mentoring you received.18. Thinking of how the program’s culminating experiences support your long-term professional goals, describe your experience with the thesis defense reading.19. Thinking of how the program’s culminating experiences support your long-term professional goals, describe your experience with the exit exam.20. What comments would you like to share that may have not been covered by this survey? |