1. **Make the following changes to the Creative Writing Major (M.F.A.):**

The M.F.A. is the terminal degree for those wishing to teach creative writing at the college or university level; it is also among the credentials expected of those seeking employment in arts administration, editing, and related fields. The curriculum provides theoretical and practical training in fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and editing and publishing.

The program’s principle aim is to teach aspiring writers their craft and at the highest possible level. We gladly speak to students about publishing their work, or about teaching or editing, but our first concern is teaching and learning the craft of writing. While we encourage applicants to apply only in one genre, once they are admitted, we encourage them to "cross-pollinate": we like to see poets working at narrative pacing in a fiction or nonfiction class, and we like to see the prose writers attentive to individual syllables in poetry. We encourage students to experiment and to push themselves in new directions. We also insist that they know where they fit in the continuum of writers, and that they understand and can speak with conviction of where they might place themselves in any of several literary traditions.

Of the minimum 54 credits required for the degree, at least 15 are to be taken in graduate-level literature (which may include ENGL 506); 15 in graduate-level creative writing courses; 32 in workshops taught by Distinguished Visiting Writers; 1 credit in Internship: FUGUE, (ENGL 598); 3 in a Techniques course (ENGL 581, 582, or 583); 9 elective credits; and 9 in thesis. A minimum of four semesters in residence is required.

The thesis will take the form of a collection of poetry, short stories, creative nonfiction, or novel, and will be prefaced by an introduction. Upon completion of the thesis in acceptable form, each student will take an oral examination designed to test the student's ability to discuss articulately his or her creative process, intellectual and creative influences, chosen genre, aesthetic perspective, design, and intent.

Students who enter the program with advanced work in creative writing at the undergraduate level will ordinarily take only 500-level courses in English. Those who have not completed an advanced undergraduate course in one of the three major genres (fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction) will in addition to the above ordinarily take advanced undergraduate courses, as advised by the director of creative writing.

**Distance Education:** More than 50% of the curricular requirements cannot be completed via distance

**Geographical Area:** Moscow

**Rationale:** The Creative Writing program has reduced the number of Distinguished Visiting Writers (DVWs)—meaning that during each MFA student’s three years of study, they will work with two visiting writers in their genre rather than three. This move will
allow us to afford to bring high-quality writers and teachers to work with our graduate students. There will be no added workload.

In lieu of this other one-credit DVW, we are adding 598—the internship with Fugue literary magazine, which is a student-run, nationally recognized literary journal housed in the English Department. Experience reading for Fugue will strengthen the MFA students’ skills to engage in the literary community as writers.

The one-credit Fugue internship replaces the one DVW credit we are eliminating. There is no change to the 54-credit total needed to graduate.