



**FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION/BILL  
FSR 2015/2016-13**

**I. RESOLUTION NAME**

Updating educational qualifications for terminal MFA (Master of Fine Arts) degrees.

**II. STATED RESOLUTION:**

**Whereas**, chapter 2 of the Faculty Handbook delineates the criteria for membership in the principal ranks of the faculty corps.

**Whereas**, the educational qualifications for those ranks specify that completion of nondoctoral degree programs require a minimum of 60 graduate hours to be considered a terminal degree.

**Whereas**, UCO is a signatory along with over 200 other universities including OU, OSU, Harvard and Stanford, that recognize the national standards established by the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) for the MFA as a terminal degree.

**Whereas**, AWP standards do not make a distinction between the number of hours in an MFA program and the value of the awarded degree.

**Whereas**, an MFA from an accredited program is a terminal degree regardless of program credit hours in all artistic areas of study where the MFA is the accepted terminal degree.

**Whereas**, UCO is relying upon an arbitrary and false standard that is contrary to accreditation norms.

**Therefore** the Faculty Senate affirms that an MFA from an accredited program is a terminal degree regardless of program credit hours and that this should be reflected as such in the Faculty Handbook to read as follows:

An earned doctorate from an accredited or internationally recognized institution, or have completed a nondoctoral degree program requiring an accredited MFA (considered a terminal degree at UCO).

*Sponsored for Consideration on April 17, 2016 by:*

**Elizabeth Sharpe Overman**, Secretary

UCO Faculty Senate

**Barbara DeMaio**,

UCO Faculty Senator

*With Advise from:* Geoff Koch, UCO Faculty Member