

UNIVERSITY
OF MIAMI
FACULTY SENATE



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MEMORANDUM

To: Donna E. Shalala, President

From: Richard L. Williamson
Chair, Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard L. Williamson'.

Date: October 27, 2011

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2011-15(B) – Expand the Master in Fine Arts Degree in Motion Pictures in the School of Communication

At its October 26, 2011 meeting, the Faculty Senate approved the expansion of the Master in Fine Arts degree in Motion Pictures in the School of Communication. This will expand the existing two-year, 42 credit-hour Master of Fine Arts degree by 24 credits and one year to a total of 66 credits and three years. The purpose of the degree expansion is, among other things, to compete with aspirational peers and, because the MFA is a terminal degree, to prepare Master of Fine Arts graduates in this field for teaching.

The supporting materials are enclosed for your reference.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

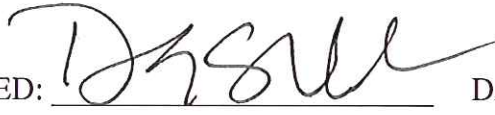
RW/rh

Enclosure

cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost
Gregory Shepherd, Dean, School of Communication
Konstantia Kontaxis, Presenter and Associate Professor, School of Communication
Teresa Scandura, Dean, The Graduate School
Office of Planning, Institutional Research and Assessment
Office of the Registrar

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2011-15(B) – Expand the Master in Fine Arts Degree
in Motion Pictures in the School of Communication

PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

APPROVED:  DATE: 11/1/11
(President's Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: DEAN SHEPHERD

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: IMMEDIATELY
(if other than June 1 next following)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____

PROPOSAL FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE MASTER IN FINE ARTS DEGREE IN MOTION PICTURES IN THE SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Motion Picture Program at the School of Communication is proposing a 24 credit-hour (one year) expansion to its existing 42 credit-hour (two year) Master of Fine Arts degree. The Program's mission is to nurture individual creative voices and independent thinking through the creative collaborative motion picture process. The expanded degree is designed to educate a new generation of moving image practitioners who are able to combine historical and theoretical knowledge with creative and critical production skills and are able to apply their knowledge and skills in diverse cultural contexts.

Graduates are prepared to pursue careers as professional moving image artists, enter the teaching profession, provide other services to the community and beyond, or enter moving image related professional fields.

This summary outlines the general features of the expanded degree. The attached full proposal provides more details including, definition of changes in the thesis requirements, areas of specialization, graduate internships, mandatory production experience abroad, a comparative analysis of programs in aspirational peer institutions and transition options for current students.

Exact Title of Degree

Master of Fine Arts in Motion Pictures

Purpose and Goals of Degree Expansion

- Align and compete with aspirational peers
- Introduce multi-specialization in moving image production suitable for delivery across a multitude of existing and future platforms, as well as a critical understanding of these delivery systems
- Adopt of a thesis "portfolio" requirement
- Include a mandatory motion picture production experience abroad (with focus in Central and Latin America)
- Institute a graduate internship program
- Prepare MFA graduates for teaching

Fit with the Mission of the University of Miami

The Master of Fine Arts program directly supports the University of Miami's mission "to educate and nurture students, to create knowledge, and to provide service to our community and beyond." Motion Pictures are an influential medium in an ever-expanding global community. Effective use and critical understanding of the medium is essential for the well being of a modern society. The MFA program is committed to developing future media leaders who demonstrate critical understanding of moving image practice in diverse social and cultural contexts for the creation of work that is relevant and impactful.

The program also aligns with the University's core value of "ethical citizenship and service to others, a respect for differences among people, and a commitment to high standards of thought and communication." The program's distinctive first year experience abroad is committed to promoting cross-cultural communication by using the medium of motion pictures to engage in and promote social change.

Fit with the mission of the School of Communication

The mission of the School of Communication is to prepare future scholars, professionals and leaders for a lifetime of service and learning. Our vision is to be a center of excellence for the study of media creation that promotes communication as a means of service and lifelong learning across communities, cultures and screens.

Relationship of Program with other Cognate Fields

The Master of Fine Arts degree is designed to connect motion picture production to both the university community and the greater Miami community.

The expanded degree lends itself to further possibilities for interdisciplinary collaboration across the School of Communication and the University. Faculty and student will continue to work closely with faculty in Electronic Media, Visual Journalism, Advertising, Public Relations and Communication Studies.

Beyond the School of Communication, there are natural affinities with the Department of Theater, School of Music, Creative Writing Program, and Department of Art. Faculty and students are currently involved among others, in projects with the following schools: Education (Wellness webisodes), Medicine (The Science of Fitness), Arts and Sciences (Cuban Theater Digital Archive).

Program Description

The expanded MFA curriculum requires 3 consecutive years of full-time

residence and a minimum of 66 credit hours. All graduate study is undertaken on a full-time basis. Initial enrollment is possible only in the fall of each year. Structured course work dominates the first year of the program; structured and independent work, are balanced in the second year; and independent work characterizes the final year. Specialization during the second year of the program is expected to develop into focused, integrated activity during the final year.

Number and Sources of Students

The expanded MFA will welcome 12 students in the first year of its launch and for every year thereafter increasing the total number of students in the program to 36 by year three. The program has currently 36 full-time students enrolled. A third of them are from the South Florida region, the rest come from other regions of the U.S. or from abroad. 15 of these students are expected to return as second year students next year.

Conclusion

The expansion of the MFA degree will be an important change in the School of Communication's terminal degree offering in media creation. It furthers the School's mission to prepare future scholars, professionals and leaders for a lifetime of service and learning. We feel confident that it will help the School solidify its reputation and impact nationally and internationally in the area of relevant creative media production.

PROPOSAL FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE MASTER IN FINE ARTS DEGREE IN MOTION PICTURES IN THE SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

Introduction

The Motion Picture Program at the University of Miami School of Communication is proposing an expansion of its Master in Fine Arts degree in Motion Pictures. The expansion is designed to align the program with the national MFA standards in Motion Pictures education as well as distinguish the program from those of its aspirational peers by developing a set of distinctive characteristics.

The mission of the expanded program is to educate a new generation of moving image practitioners who are able to combine historical and theoretical knowledge with creative and critical production skills and are able to apply their knowledge and skills in diverse cultural contexts.

This proposal outlines the rationale for the degree expansion, the curricular changes, the transition options for current students, the resources available and needed the program budget and a comparison of peer programs at aspirational institutions.

Rationale

Exact Title of the Degree

Master of Fine Arts in Motion Pictures

Purpose and Goals of Degree Expansion

- Align and compete with aspirational peers
- Introduce multi-specialization in moving image production suitable for delivery across a multitude of existing and future platforms, as well as a critical understanding of these delivery systems
- Adopt of a thesis "portfolio" requirement
- Include a mandatory motion picture production experience abroad (with focus in Central and South America)
- Institute a graduate internship program
- Prepare MFA graduates for teaching

Curricular Changes

We propose a set of new experiences to be introduced in the expanded 66 credit hour curriculum:

1. Core Field Experience Abroad
2. Multi-specialization
3. Thesis Portfolio requirement
4. Teaching preparation
5. Graduate Internship

The expanded MFA curriculum requires three consecutive years of full-time study and a minimum of 66 credit hours. Structured course work dominates the first year of the program; structured and independent work, are balanced in the second year; and independent work characterizes the final year. Specialization during the second year of the program is expected to develop into focused, integrated activity during the final year.

Field Experience Abroad (part of Production Workshop I)

The production experience abroad is designed to integrate students' didactic learning with practical field experience and to translate visual communication skills and service oriented learning into real-world applications. The experience will be mandatory for all first year students and will be administered during the spring break of the second semester of residency.

The Production Experience Abroad will:

- Provide 10 days in a South/Central American community with daily faculty lead workshops
- Provide opportunities to integrate theory, research, practice and social purpose
- Provide opportunities to build communication skills and practical knowledge of other cultures
- Culminate with a cinematic piece on social and environmental change

Multi-specialization

The purpose of the multi-specialization requirement is to ground the educational experience on learning that synthesizes knowledge and requires students to master more than one areas of concentration in moving image practice. To this end, the expanded curriculum proposes the elimination of the three existing tracks: production, producing and screenwriting.

Students will be required to declare a primary and secondary area of specialization after completing the first three semesters of coursework by electing

from six disciplines: writing, producing, directing, cinematography, editing and sound. In the disciplines chosen, the candidate must complete a minimum of two advanced projects, which will ultimately consist the student's thesis portfolio.

A minimum of 6 credit hours in courses of the areas of specialization is required for a total of 12 credits.

Thesis Portfolio Requirement (12 credit hours)

The purpose of the thesis portfolio requirement is to provide an experience that synthesizes learning and allows students to demonstrate the highest level of accomplishment through the generation of a body of work that evidences not only skillful execution of tools, materials, and craft but strong conceptual development.

Depending upon their areas of specialization students will be expected to: direct a thesis film, write a feature length screenplay, write a TV pilot, produce a range of projects in or outside the program, work as cinematographers, picture or sound editors on a range of projects. Students may also gain approval to direct a feature length project for their thesis.

All thesis work will be developed with consultation from the faculty and will be completed under thesis committee supervision. Students will be expected to form a thesis committee at the fourth semester of residency.

Thesis research will be conducted in two six-credit hour modules during the third year of studies.

Teaching

Students who receive graduate assistantships may be asked to teach as part of their assistantship duties. Students who are assigned to teach undergraduate courses will be instructors of record for these courses. Such teaching assignments will be done for undergraduate introductory courses only.

In preparation for teaching an undergraduate course, graduate students will shadow faculty teaching the specific course for a minimum of one semester prior to teaching it.

Graduate Internship (1-3 credits)

Internships allow for further exploration of student interests and existing discipline strengths and trends. Students can capitalize on existing program partnerships and relationships with private and public profit and non-profit institutions.

Students are encouraged to participate in internships during the summer of the first year or second year of studies.

Student transition to the new curriculum

Students currently enrolled in the two-year MFA program may opt to transition to the three-year program on the basis of advanced thesis work. In such case, students shall submit a project proposal to be considered by their thesis committee. The thesis committee chair will make a recommendation to the faculty and the faculty shall decide on the approval of the transition. The faculty recommendation will be forwarded to the School of Communication Director of Graduate Studies for final approval. Students transitioning to the new curriculum will be expected to enroll for an additional 12 credit hours of course work towards the 66 credit hour requirement.

Need for Additional Faculty

Our current faculty is anticipated to cover the faculty needs for this program. Our curriculum could be enhanced with the addition of courses in digital entrepreneurship and media producing. We will seek to fulfill these needs in the next three years in collaboration with similar needs in other programs at the School.

Budget information is deleted from the web version of this legislation.

Budget information is deleted from the web version of this legislation.

Comparative Analysis

There is strong representation of similar degrees in Schools, Departments, and Programs nationally in the areas of Cinematic Arts, Film and Television Production. Units in aspirational peers' areas form typically larger entities such as independent schools. While there are two other universities in Florida offering MFAs in Film none offers the multi-specialization and multi-cultural driven mission of the CMP MFA.

The following list highlights a sample of similar programs in the United States with program descriptions from their websites.

1. University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts, **Film and Television Production** (MFA). Our program is distinguished by the understanding and hands-on practice our graduates achieve in all media-making disciplines; at the same time, each student pursues specialized interests in years two and three. To qualify for the M.F.A., each must demonstrate mastery of at least one of six disciplines: writing, producing, directing, cinematography, editing or sound. In the discipline chosen, the candidate must register for and complete an advanced project, as well as the defined prerequisites.
2. New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, **Filmmaking** (MFA) New York University's Graduate Film Program, offered in both New York and Singapore, is an intensive three-year conservatory, which trains students in the art of cinematic storytelling. We focus on helping writer/directors develop a narrative voice and the technical virtuosity to express that voice in cinema. The Graduate Film Program encompasses both fiction and documentary filmmaking. Each semester, courses in screenwriting, directing, aesthetics, acting, cinematography, editing, producing, and sound design compliment specific filmmaking projects that provide hands-on training. Our students are well-prepared to transition into the professional world with a range of technical skills, which often lead to employment in the industry, a reel of short films, which can serve as calling cards, and a feature film script.
3. Columbia University, School of the Arts, Film Program, **Screenwriting/Directing** (MFA). The mission of the MFA in Screenwriting/Directing is to rigorously train story-tellers in film, television, and digital media. The course of study includes two years of creative workshops and related courses, followed by one to three years of thesis work. Students are immersed in the principles and working methods of a variety of genres and dramatic forms. Through multiple exercises and short film and script projects they are encouraged to explore their understanding of the medium, with the ultimate goal of establishing each student's personal voice. Students in the

Creative Producing Program share the first-year curriculum and some of the second-year electives. In bringing these programs together, the faculty actively encourages the development of professional collaborations that last throughout the program and beyond, as well as fostering the environment of mutual support that we have believe is essential to the creation of film.

4. University of Texas at Austin, Department of Radio-Television-Film, **Film and Media Production** (MFA) The M.F.A. in Film & Media Production is a professional training program designed for creative individuals with a demonstrated commitment to filmmaking as a professional, artistic, or academic pursuit. Students direct at least four films. Each student directs a fiction film and a documentary in the first year of the program. In the second year, students make a documentary or fiction pre-thesis film. Students make their thesis films in the final year of the program. The program places equal emphasis on fiction and documentary. Many students come here as self-defined documentary filmmakers or with the single goal of directing commercial fiction films. These same students often find that the study of the "other" form, fiction or documentary, as the case may be, inspires and informs their work in their initial arena of interest in unexpected and welcome ways.

5. Syracuse University, College of Visual and Performing Arts, **Film** (MFA). The most unique aspect of our master of fine arts (M.F.A.) degree program in film is the integration of film production with the intellectual study of cinema through a regimen of film history, film culture, and film theory courses. The program doesn't impose an aesthetic or critical agenda; rather, it encourages you to explore the medium of film in an intelligent yet personal way, fully aware of its history and potential. This exploration will culminate in the M.F.A. thesis project, which consists of a film and a written thesis statement. The program encourages an interdisciplinary approach through exposure to the areas of video, photography, computer art, sound, music composition, creative writing, drama, women's studies, and African American studies. The objective is to develop a plan of study that puts together a course package designed to support each student's unique talents and interests and to compliment the required courses that constitute the rest of the curriculum.

Master of Fine Arts programs in these universities tend to focus on, narrative voice, personal voice, personal exploration, self-defined filmmaking. They often contain courses in film culture, fiction and documentary filmmaking.

The CMP MFA program is similar in many ways to existing Film Production programs. However, the program is unique in that it combines narrative storytelling and the traditional independent filmmaking skills with value-driven moving image creation within cross-cultural contexts. The CMP program takes a

global and contemporary approach on media creation that is guided by the values of cross-cultural collaboration, diversity, social purpose, and narrative innovation.

Conclusion

The expanded Master's of Fine Arts in Motion Pictures is an important value to the School of Communication's offering of a terminal degree in media creation. It furthers the School's mission to *prepare future scholars, professionals and leaders for a lifetime of service and learning*. We feel confident that it will help the School solidify its reputation and impact nationally and internationally in the area of relevant creative media production.

Appendix A: Bulletin Copy

MFA in Motion Pictures

The Motion Picture graduate program provides a student-centered, learning experience within a globally diverse moving image context. The MFA curriculum emphasizes the relationship between theory and practice and encourages both creative collaboration and independent thinking as it prepares motion picture professionals and artists.

M.F.A. in Motion Pictures Curriculum

Students must complete a minimum of 66 credit hours with the approval of the faculty advisor. Of the 66 credit hours, at least 24 must be at or above the 600-level. 12 credit hours at the 700-level must be earned for thesis work.

M.F.A. candidates are expected to follow a set sequence of courses during the first two semesters of their studies. During the second year of studies, candidates are strongly encouraged to explore not only a primary but also a secondary area of specialization in the program and develop a minimum of two creative projects consistent with their areas of primary interest and secondary specialization. A minimum of 6 credits hours in each area of specialization is required. Under faculty committee supervision, students will develop one or two creative projects in the third year of their studies.

All M.F.A. students must demonstrate deeper, critical understanding of motion picture practice in diverse social and cultural contexts. To this purpose, and during their first year of studies, students are expected to produce a short motion picture project abroad. Students are also encouraged to participate in an internship during the summer of the first year or second year of studies.

This three-year program culminates with a thesis portfolio that demonstrates, not only skillful execution of craft, but strong conceptual development rooted in collaborative work and innovative uses of technology.

FIRST YEAR:

REQUIRED FALL SEMESTER COURSE WORK: 12 CREDITS

CMP 501 Principles of Aesthetics & Analysis (3)
CMP 510 Foundation of Screenwriting (3)
CMP 520 Cinematography (3)
CMP 560 Directing the Actor (3)

REQUIRED SPRING SEMESTER COURSE WORK: 12 CREDITS

CMP 530 Introduction to Editing (3)
CMP 511 Writing the Short Script (3)
CMP 570 Producing the Motion Picture (3)

CMP 550 Production Workshop I - Narrative (3)

SECOND YEAR:

FALL SEMESTER COURSE OFFERINGS: 12 CREDITS

- CMP 650 Production Workshop II – Individual Projects (3)
- CMP 610 Writing the Feature-length Screenplay (3)
- CMP 612 Writing for Episodic Television (3)
- CMP 670 The Business of Motion Pictures (3)
- CMP 660 Directing Performance and Creative Collaboration (3)
- CMP 603 Film Directors (3)

SPRING SEMESTER COURSE OFFERINGS: 12 CREDITS

- CMP 611 Re-Writing the Feature Screenplay (3)
- CMP 653 Documentary Production (3)
- CMP 661 Directing the Camera (3)
- CMP 640 Sound Design (3)
- CMP 630 Advanced Editing (3)
- CMP 607 National Cinemas (3)

THIRD YEAR:

RECOMMENDED FALL SEMESTER COURSE WORK: 9 CREDITS

- CMP 700 MFA THESIS (6)
- CMP 613 Advanced Writing for Episodic Television (3)
- CMP 671 Production Management (3)

RECOMMENDED SPRING SEMESTER COURSE WORK: 9 CREDITS

- CMP 700 MFA THESIS (6)
- CMP 672 Marketing and Distribution (3)

No more than nine credit hours will be allowed for graduate internships and advanced projects and directed research. Courses may be taken, with program director approval, from other Programs or Departments within the University of Miami.

Course Descriptions

Guide:

- 500s, 600s Studies courses
- 510s, 610s Screenwriting Courses
- 520s Cinematography
- 530, 630 Editing
- 640 Sound
- 550s, 650s Production courses
- 560, 660s Directing courses

570s, 670s Producing courses

CMP 501 *Principles of Aesthetics & Analysis (previously 666)*

3 credits

Provides graduate students with an introductory immersion in aesthetics, analysis, and history of film and media.

CMP 510 *Foundations of Screenwriting (previously 565)*

3 credits

This course explores the fundamental skill set necessary to manipulate the basic elements of cinematic writing. The course will investigate common dramatic elements found in all screenplays as well as teach format principles of feature, TV and emerging media scripts.

CMP 511 *Writing the Short Film (previously 638)*

3 credits

A course in the fundamentals of screenwriting focused on the creation of a 15 to 30-page screenplay.

PREREQUISITE: CMP 510

CMP 520 *Cinematography (previously 651)*

3 credits

This hands-on course provides students with the aesthetic and technical aspects of professional concepts and techniques in film and digital media cinematography.

CMP 530 *Introduction to Editing (previously 656)*

3 credits

Fundamental knowledge of key practical, aesthetic and theoretical considerations in motion picture editing.

CMP 550 *Production Workshop I – Narrative (previously 652)*

3 credits

An introduction to film and digital production techniques on narrative projects.

Emphasis on collaboration, group process and social purpose. Students will be expected to produce a short film abroad as part of this course.

CMP 560 *Directing the Actor (new)*

3 credits

The purpose of this course is to teach and practice the craft of directing, including text analysis, characterization, visualization, design, intention and rehearsal; to train students to articulate their ideas to cast and film crew. At the successful completion of this course, students will be able to approach dramatic material with a design concept, a blocking and shooting plan and a communications skill set to aid in fruitful creative collaboration.

CMP 570 *Producing the Motion Picture (previously 555)*

3 credits

A practical examination of the development, production, and marketing responsibilities involved in producing motion pictures.

CMP 603 *Film Directors (previously 503)*

3 credits

This course will address the conditions of authorship in film through an intensive study of the films of two or more directors, whose careers will serve as case studies. These directors will be historically important and their work will represent significant achievements in the art of film.

CMP 607 *National Cinemas (previously 507)*

3 credits

Selected films from Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America will be studied in relation to their diverse social/political and cultural contexts.

CMP 610 *Writing the Feature-length Screenplay (previously 627)*

3 credits

Study of and practice in writing feature-length, narrative motion picture scripts. Focus is placed on cinematic structure and presentation of character.

PREREQUISITE: CMP 510

CMP 611 *Re-Writing the Feature Screenplay (previously 628)*

3 credits

The course will cover the art and craft of the "re-write". Feature films are re-written many times; sometimes by the original author - most often by another writer. This course will teach the necessary elements of working with producer's notes, and finding the "spine" of the script as well as working with directors and agents on revisions and "polishes".

PREREQUISITE: CMP 610

CMP 612 *Writing for Episodic Television (previously 639)*

3 credits

The course will explore the art and craft required to write a "spec" Television episode. The course will explore how TV writing differs from feature writing and how the TV writer/producer business model works. By the end of the course the student will have finished an hour-long "spec" script for an existing TV show or a two-part sitcom teleplay.

PREREQUISITE: CMP 611

CMP 613 *Advanced Writing for Episodic Television (new)*

3 credits

Advanced examination of the techniques and elements of television writing. Focus is placed upon both the situation comedy and the dramatic series.

PREREQUISITE: CMP 612

CMP 630 *Advanced Editing (new)*

3 credits

An examination of the art and techniques of post-production designed for students completing advanced motion picture projects. Lectures, group discussions and screenings. Emphasis on rhythm, dramatic moments, character arcs, symbolic vs. thematic editing, elements of sound editing, sound design and professional mastering standards.

PREREQUISITE: CMP 530

CMP 640 *Sound Design (new)*

3 credits

Sound Design through seminar and workshop provides a practical and theoretical introduction to sound and its function in the narrative moving image process. The course utilizes professional environments to instruct in the basics of sound editing, studio recording and mixing as it is practiced in the film industry. It will also present the aesthetic use of sound and its integral part in the moving image narrative process.

CMP 650 *Production Workshop II – Individual Projects (new)*

3 credits

Advance production concepts and techniques explored in a variety of mediums.

PREREQUISITE: CMP 550

CMP 653 *Documentary Production (previously 558)*

3 credits

In this documentary workshop students consider the fundamentals of the documentary form and produce original documentary projects, from start to finish.

CMP 660 *Directing Performance and Creative Collaboration (new)*

3 credits

This course is designed to build a more advanced set of professional skills and practices for motion picture directing through scene work, shooting and collaboration.

CMP 661 *Directing the Camera*

3 credits

An introduction to directing actors in low budget, independent films utilizing traditional, modern and evolving directorial techniques used by independent and traditional film makers: analyzing and orchestrating scripted material, developing a directorial concept, creating indelible characterizations, building a visual image, auditioning and casting the talent, blocking and directing the untrained amateur or highly skilled professional actor.

PREREQUISITE: CMP 660

CMP 670 *The Business of Motion Pictures (new)*

3 credits

An examination of the industry's three-part structure - production, distribution and exhibition. Consideration given to intellectual property, motion picture "creative accounting" and changes prompted by new technologies. The course surveys both studio films and independents as well as the impact of the motion picture industry in today's economy.

PREREQUISITE: 570

CMP 671 *Production Management (previously 605)*

3 credits

A comprehensive examination of the skills and techniques employed by line producers and production managers in the preproduction, production, and post-production of motion pictures and alternative media.

PREREQUISITE: CMP 670

CMP 672 *Marketing and Distribution (previously 552)*

3 credits

Economic and marketing considerations in the production and distribution of motion pictures.

CMP 694 *Motion Picture Internship (new)*

1- 3 credits

Prescribed study and supervised work with practitioners in motion pictures.

PREREQUISITE: MINIMUM 24 CREDITS IN THE MFA

CMP 695 *Special Topics in Motion Picture (previously 594)*

3 credits

This course subject matter varies according to announced special topic. See class schedule for details.

PREREQUISITE: PERMISSION OF INSTRUCTOR.

CMP 699 *Advanced Projects and Directed Research (previously 599)*

1- 6 credits

Faculty supervised independent study

PREREQUISITE: PERMISSION OF SUPERVISING INSTRUCTOR

CMP 734 *MFA Thesis (6)*

1-6 credits

Film production in which the student functions, at minimum, in the capacity of a producer, screenwriter, director, cinematographer or editor. Course may be repeated to a maximum of twelve credits.



Appendix B: Endorsement Memos

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
SCHOOL of
COMMUNICATION



Office of the Dean Phone: 305-284-3420
5100 Brunson Drive Fax: 305-284-2454
Coral Gables, FL 33146-2105 www.com.miami.edu


MEMORANDUM

October 17, 2011

TO: Richard Williamson
Chair, Faculty Senate

FROM: Gregory J. Shepherd
Dean, School of Communication

SUBJECT: Support for the revised MFA degree program in Motion Pictures



I write to express my strong support for the plan to revise the MFA degree program in Motion Pictures. Moving from a two- to three-year program will allow the School of Communication to build a reputation-enhancing terminal degree program to compete with aspirational programs in the creative arts. We have built support for the program into our operational budget, with plans to provide two years of funding for select students in the program.

Enhancing the national prominence of the School of Communication requires having a focused, rigorous, and well-supported MFA program. We are dedicated to meeting those requirements.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
GRADUATE SCHOOL



Terri A. Scandura, Ph.D.
Dean of the Graduate School

Graduate School
P.O. Box 248125
Coral Gables, FL 33124-3220

Phone: 305-284-4154
Fax: 305-284-5441
graduateschool@miami.edu

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 20, 2011

TO: Richard Williamson
Chair, Faculty Senate

FROM: Terri A. Scandura *Terri A. Scandura*
Dean, The Graduate School

SUBJECT: Expansion of the M.F.A. degree in Motion Pictures

The Motion Pictures Department submitted a request to expand the current two-year M.F.A. degree in Motion Pictures to a three-year M.F.A. degree in Motion Pictures. This was discussed at the meeting of the Graduate Council on Thursday, September 15, 2011, and none of the Graduate Council members expressed any concerns.

cc: Gregory Shepherd, Dean
Jyotika Ramaprasad, Chair
Konstantia Kontaxis, GPD
Office of Planning, Institutional Research and Assessment

