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Rationale for Changes to GFC Document #1262/Faculty Document #3201

Establishing requirements for filing Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) has had unintended consequences for students in programs who publish commercially. Commercial publishers of creative writing (such as novels or books of poetry) have refused to publish work if it is available as an ETD. In one recent case at UWM, a publisher rescinded a signed contract when they learned that the manuscript was available electronically as a dissertation. Others have refused to publish at all even with the maximum two-year embargo permitted by the current policy. Nationally, highly ranked creative writing graduate programs have begun opting out of the requirement to archive and distribute creative theses and dissertations electronically. This revision is modelled on those precedents.