**Motion to Change the Requirements for Final Exam of Non-thesis Masters**

**Recommendation**:

Remove the requirement for a final exam for non-thesis students completing a creative component.

**Motion under review:**

The above recommendation will be implemented in the Graduate College Handbook by adopting the following changes to section 7.1.3, the **Final Oral Examinations**:

*Thesis ~~and non-thesis~~ master’s students and all Ph.D. degree candidates must pass final oral examinations. The final oral examination must be held by the final oral examination deadline date for the semester in which the degree is granted. All coursework in the program of study must either be completed or in progress before the final oral examination can be scheduled. This examination is oral; it may also include a written component if specified by the student’s program of study (POS) committee.*

*Master’s students completing coursework only or creative component-based programs are not required to participate in a final exam unless the major program requires that one be held.*

**Rationale**

The rationale for this change is that currently only one person is required to be a committee member for non-thesis masters, and the requirement for oral presentation is considered onerous for these supervising faculty.

**Other Relevant Policies**

*… all graduate students must register during the term of the final oral examination for a minimum of two credits … Graduate students who are not required to take a final oral examination should complete all required coursework on the POS prior to or during the term of graduation. Any transfer credits must be completed the term before the graduation term and follow normal transfer rules.* (Section 2.1.5, Graduate College Handbook under **Registration and Graduation**)

*The master’s final oral examination is conducted after the thesis is finished, if a thesis is required. The thesis and nonthesis final oral examinations are comprehensive, oral, and may include written sections. The Ph.D. final oral examination, conducted after the dissertation is finished, is oral and often, but not always, limited to a defense of the dissertation. To receive the degree at the end of a given semester, the student must hold the final oral examination before the final oral examination deadline for the semester.* (Section 7.1.3, Graduate College Handbook under **Final Oral Examinations**)

*Graduate students who are not required to take a final oral examination should complete all required coursework on the POS prior to or during the term of graduation. Any transfer credits must be completed the term before the graduation term and follow normal transfer rules.* (Section 7.1.4, Graduate College Handbook under **Registration for Students Not Required to Take Final Oral Examinations**)