Women’s Studies Changes

REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:
Women’s Studies has requested a change in program name to reflect the principle of inclusivity that increasingly permeates their discipline. The change would replace Women’s Studies Program with Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program in a move that brings UW-Eau Claire into alignment with other programs around the country. Associated with the change in program name are recommendations for changes in the names of associated majors, minors, and certificates and also the creation of a new course prefix that would better align with the proposed change in program name.

Special note: APC considered all of these changes as a package and therefore, we have forwarded the recommendation to the senate as a package. The senate would have the right to consider each of these items as a separate motion by simply asking that the senate divide the motion. However, if the program name change is approved all of the other name changes (and the new prefix) are simply aligning the major, minor and certificate names with the name change for the program.

Points Discussed by Committee:
1. The name change simply reflects the changing nature of the discipline which has increasingly been including content regarding LGBTQ issues and other issues concerning sexuality and gender studies.
2. The proposed name change brings UW-Eau Claire into alignment with the direction other universities have been going for some time.
3. This does not represent mission creep for the department but rather reflects what is currently been happening within the program. The name change might open up additional opportunities for different courses in the future.

Pros of Recommendation:
The proposed name change more adequately reflects the current nature of the discipline.

Cons of Recommendation:
None

Technology/Human Resource Impact:
None
Committee Recommendation:

APC recommends proposed changes for the Women’s Studies Program as listed below:

a. Proposed name change of the Women’s Studies Program to Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program
b. Proposed name change of the Major: Women’s Studies, Liberal Arts (Code 486-201) to Major: Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Liberal Arts (Code 486-XXX)
c. Proposed name change of the Minor: Women’s Studies, Liberal Arts (Code 486-401) to Minor: Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Liberal Arts (Code 486-XXX)
d. Proposed name change of the Women’s Studies Certificate (Code 486-601) to Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Certificate (Code 486-XXX)
e. Request for new course prefix WGSS (Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies) in place of the course prefix WMNS (Women’s Studies).

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of 6 for to 0 against on April 18, 2017 (Date)

Recommends that:

Proposed changes for the Women’s Studies Program as listed below:

a. Proposed name change of the Women’s Studies Program to Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program
b. Proposed name change of the Major: Women’s Studies, Liberal Arts (Code 486-201) to Major: Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Liberal Arts (Code 486-XXX)
c. Proposed name change of the Minor: Women’s Studies, Liberal Arts (Code 486-401) to Minor: Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Liberal Arts (Code 486-XXX)
d. Proposed name change of the Women’s Studies Certificate (Code 486-601) to Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Certificate (Code 486-XXX)
e. Request for new course prefix WGSS (Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies) in place of the course prefix WMNS (Women’s Studies).

Implementation Date: 18/19 catalog

Signed: _______________________________________

Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office