University Senate Academic Policies Committee
Vol. 58, Meeting No. 13
Tuesday, March 15, 2022
VL 1128 or via Zoom

Present: Members: Scott Clark, Rahul Gomes, Abby Hemmerich, Mary Hoffman, Marquell Johnson, Carol Koroghlanian, Bill Miller, Dalete Mota, Jamie Tester Morfoot, Evan Weiher
Guests: Margaret Cassidy, Marc Goulet, David Jones, Sarita Mizin, Kong Pheng Pha, Jean Pratt, Jill Prushiek, Cathy Rex, Asha Sen, Kaia Simon, Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn

Presiding: Chair Marquell Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from March 8, 2022
   ▪ Motion to approve the minutes of March 8, 2022, as submitted. Motion was seconded and approved (9-0-0).

2. Proposal from the Women’s Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program Rename
   ▪ Rose-Marie Avin was in attendance to provide information and answer questions. Change from program to department is necessary for the program’s survival and for the many reasons outlined in the documents. Three full-time faculty have a tenure home in WGSS + one 50% director with a tenure home in ECON. The Director’s position is similar to a Chair’s. Twenty affiliates teach courses cross-listed with WGSS. WGSS serves as an umbrella for the WGSS major/minor/certificate, Critical Hmong Studies Certificate, and they hope to offer a Women of Color Feminisms Certificate this fall. Already functioning as a department without the visibility and respect; being a department would put them in a better position to grow and provide stability. Difficult to market a program no one knows about. During program review, external reviewer strongly recommended program be granted departmental status because of negative perception of a program vs. department. WGSS plays an important role in helping the University achieve EDI goals, contributes significantly to LE Core outcomes (25% of R1), strongly supports the Strategic and Master Plans. Status and name change will put UWEc at same level as others; UW-LAX has a Department of Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Change will also enhance UWEC’s ability to attract faculty of color in other disciplines. WGSS doesn’t reflect all offerings. A department doesn’t cost more. If name change is approved, the WGSS prefix/major/minor/certificate will remain the same.
     ▪ Was there pushback about changing the name?
       - Met with the various affiliates and shared the document. No questions/concerns received.
     ▪ Like the name, Chemistry brought forth a proposal earlier to include A.C.S. Certified in the name to help with enrollment.
       - Name change will impact enrollment positively. Spoke with majors and minors in upper-division courses. All had the same reaction – it’s about time race be included. Various possibilities discussed and this one reflected better what is being done
     ▪ Any pushback regarding removing “Women’s”
       - Discussed with affiliates first, in agreement that it’s not only about women, race is a better fit
   ▪ Motion to approve the proposal from the Women’s Gender, and Sexuality Studies program to rename Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Motion was seconded and approved (9-0-0).
3. Proposal from the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program for Academic Department Designation

- Multiple remarks that the proposal was of high quality and written well, it answered all possible questions, the historical evolution was appreciated.
- Functional impact on university? Impact on budget, assessment, FTE awards to change from program to department?
  - No impact. Functionally equivalent to dept now. Won't get access to additional funds, will put in search requests like other departments.
- Does it come with a seat in Senate?
  - Want a voice and to be made aware of what is going on. Feel marginalized!
  - FASRP: each department with four or more positions can elect a senator.
- Major table show decreases?
  - Because of pandemic, many students withdrew from University. Have been recruiting but not at same pace as pre-pandemic. Rose-Marie visits WGSS 100 to promote the program, work closely with Psychology (many double majors) and ARCC to create a 4-year academic plan so double majors can graduate in four years, also recruit from minors (very few credits between a major and minor)
- Value in keeping same prefix?
  - Not creating a new major or minor so prefix will remain, same with HMNG prefix.
- Motion to approve the proposal from the Women’s Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program for Academic Department Designation and Name Change as the Department of Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Motion was seconded and approved (9-0-0).

Chair Marquell Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Forcier
Secretary for the Meeting