

## MEMORANDUM

Date: 6 March 2006

To: University Senate Council

From: Joan Callahan, Director of Women's Studies Program

RE: Petition to modify name of program

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I write to request that the program currently known as "the Women's Studies Program" be changed to "the Gender and Women's Studies Program." This name change reflects the growing field of scholarship in gender studies and more accurately reflects the expanding research and curricular interests of our faculty. This change has been carefully discussed over several years. The entire Women's Studies Affiliated Faculty was polled on this matter between February 9 and February 27, 2005. There were 37 responses (out of 51 Affiliated Faculty, some of who were on leave), all of them supporting the change. We also request that all curricula offered by the Program reflect the name change, namely:

The Women's Studies Program has long promoted the inclusion of contributions, history, creativity and scholarship of women in the curriculum offered by the program as well as the larger curriculum of the university. While there is no less need today to promote the inclusion of the contributions of women in curriculum, there is a growing trend toward the inclusion of gender within women's studies scholarship and the critical study of the construction and influence of all gender roles.

The addition of "gender" to the program title is more inclusive, accurate, and institutionally progressive than the current program title. Five of our 19 benchmark institutions have program titles that include Gender and Women's Studies (see Appendix).

The change of program title will aid students in understanding the importance of the issues of gender in their lives and to their programs of study. It will also expand the number and type of course offerings available through the program. Additionally, the inclusion of gender studies extends to explicitly include the interests of current and potential affiliated faculty members, who increasingly are working in gender minority studies and masculinity studies, as well as women's studies.

The change in program title will be reflected in a change in the name of the topical major, and/or undergraduate minor that is recorded and the Graduate Certificate.

## **APPENDIX I: List of UK Benchmarks with Gender and Women's Studies Programs**

- North Carolina State University: Women's and Gender Studies Program
- University of Florida: Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign: Gender and Women's Studies Program
- University of Texas, Austin: Center for Women's and Gender Studies
- University of Virginia: Studies in Women and Gender

## **APPENDIX II: Samples of courses that have recently been offered under WS and departmental rubrics which are appropriately categorized as Gender Studies courses.**

WS 595-002 / PS491-003 / PS711-001 Issues in Women's Studies: LGBT Identity, Theory and Politics

ANT 350-001 Human Rights In Global Perspective

ANT 770-002 Rethinking Class Theory

ANT 737-001 Gender Anthropology

ANT 766-001 Gender, Ethnicity and Health. Gender, Ethnicity, and Health

BSC 772-002 Seminar in Health Inequities

EPE 667-001 Gender and Education

ENG487G-001 Psychoanalysis and Culture

ENG 480G-001 Sexuality and Cinema

FR 617-001 Eighteenth-Century Studies: Domestic Intimacy in French Fiction and Theatre

HIS 563-001 Women and Gender in Latin America

LIN 517-001 Special Topics in Linguistics: Language and Gender

MAT 547 Social and Psychological Aspects of Apparel

SOC 535-002 Studies in Social Inequality: Family and Poverty

SW 618-401 Social Work Practice with Gay and Lesbian People