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Office of the President
May 8, 2012

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREES RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Doctor of Philosophy with a major in Gender and Women's Studies degree (CIP Code: 05.0299, PROG: GS PHD GWST) and a Master of Arts with a major in Gender and Women's Studies (en passant) degree (CIP Code: 05.0299, PROG: GS MA GWST) in the College of Arts and Sciences, effective in the Fall 2012 Semester.

Background: The Department of Gender and Women's Studies proposes an integrative, multidisciplinary, theoretically diverse approach to the study of gender, which includes the social construction of femininity and masculinity across cultures. The department is committed to research and teaching about the lives, cultures, perspectives, and activities of women as well as men globally, and to the understanding of gender as a construct that permeates human experience, thought, and history.

Students with doctoral degrees in this area will be competitive for academic positions in a variety of disciplinary fields including, women's studies, gender studies, masculinity studies, and sexuality studies; non-governmental organizations such as those recognized by the United Nations; national nonprofits, think tanks, and advocacy organizations; local nonprofits including violence prevention centers, rape crisis centers, and federal, state, and local government units focusing on women, families, or equity issues, including human relations commissions and commissions on women.

The graduate program in GWE is primarily a doctoral program and students will be admitted only to the Ph.D. program. However, in the case of students who are judged to be deficient in progress, the option of the MA provides them with the opportunity to complete a degree. Also, students will be awarded an MA en passant in the Ph.D. program.

These programs have the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate and have completed the forty-five day review by the Council on Postsecondary Education. The provost of the University supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____