

University Senate Committee on Academic Organization and Structure

Meeting: Email discussion initiated January 4th, 2006 with a two week deadline.

Topic: Proposal to change the name of the “Women’s Studies Program” to “Gender and Women’s Studies Program”.

Committee Members: Ernie Bailey (chair), Tom Garrity, JW Yates, Melissa Newman, Bob Houtz, James Hertog, Chris Frost, Monica Hobson, Brian Jackson and Sam Jasper.

A name change is requested because the subject matter of the program is broader than the current title would indicate and the new name more accurately reflects the content. The January 22, 2005 memorandum from Joan Callahan clearly makes this and other relevant points.

The committee members were directed to the information on the proposed name change and asked to respond within two weeks with recommendations on the proposal. The committee members responding to the request (4) were satisfied with the materials provided and did not request a physical meeting of the committee. Several issues were raised:

1. There is no indication on the Consultation Summary Sheet about the strength of the faculty support for the name change. Clearly the change was approved by the faculty but it would have been helpful to have more specific information about the process.
2. There was a discrepancy between the Director’s (Joan Callahan) and the Dean’s (Hoch) statement about whether or not the change applies to the program or the accompanying minor and graduate certificate. Dr. Callahan states in her January 22, 2005 memorandum that it applies to the major, minor and graduate certificate while Dean Hoch specifically states in his November 22, 2005 letter that the names of the minor and graduate certificate will remain unchanged. The intent and extent of the change should be clear.
3. The Investigator Report from A&S is not particularly informative on this or other points relative to the name change.

It would seem that these are minor points and can be cleared up before consideration by the Senate Council and Senate. This letter was circulated by email to the committee members and all 8 of 8 respondents approved this letter. We recommend approval of the name change proposal following clarification on these minor points by someone from the program.

Brothers, Sheila C

From: Hanson, Roxie
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2006 1:26 PM
To: 'Joan Callahan'; Brothers, Sheila C
Subject: RE: AOS committee on Women's Studies name change
Importance: High

"1. There is no indication on the Consultation Summary Sheet about the strength of the faculty support for the name change. Clearly the change was approved by the faculty but it would have been helpful to have more specific information about the process."

Response: The entire Women's Studies Affiliated Faculty was polled between February 9 and February 27, 2005. There were 37 responses (out of 51 Affiliated Faculty, some of whom were on leave), all of them supporting the change.

"2. There was a discrepancy between the Director's (Joan Callahan) and the Dean's (Hoch) statement about whether or not the change applies to the program or the accompanying minor and graduate certificate. Dr. Callahan states in her January 22, 2005 memorandum that it applies to the major, minor and graduate certificate while Dean Hoch specifically states in his November 22, 2005 letter that the names of the minor and graduate certificate will remain unchanged. The intent and extent of the change should be clear."

Response: We do request that all curricula offered by the Program reflect the name change, namely:

Topical Major in Gender and Women's Studies
Undergraduate Minor in Gender and Women's Studies
Graduate Certificate in Gender and Women's Studies

I have heard from Dean Hoch that he approves all of these changes.

3. The Investigator Report from A&S is not particularly informative on this or other points relative to the name change.

Response: Tom Clayton is on the A&S investigator report for the Humanities area of the A&S Education Policy Committee and is the one the AOS committee should contact.
