

Resolution of the Faculty Senate Endorsing the Faculty Senate Academic Planning & Assessment Committee Recommendation on the Proposal of Establishing a Department of Global Gender & Sexuality Studies

To: The UB Faculty Senate

From: The Faculty Senate Academic Planning & Assessment Committee

Date Proposed to FSEC: November 29, 2017

First Reading to the Faculty Senate: December 12, 2017

Second Reading to the Faculty Senate: February 20, 2018

Approved by the Faculty Senate:

Effective Date:

Whereas, the Faculty Senate Academic Planning and Assessment Committee has considered the PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES

Whereas, in our November 17th, 2017 meeting, the Committee discussed the Proposal and continued discussion over email. We contacted Dean Robin Schulze of CAS requesting further information and received a full response.

Whereas, a first concern was the title Global Gender and Sexuality Studies. Committee members welcomed and strongly support this proposal and consider it a big win for the university, both for the importance of the field of gender studies and for the innovative organizational model to foster the interdisciplinary collaboration essential for studying this topic.

Whereas, one committee member noted that ideally department names should be aligned with the predominant usage for the name of the field of study, and that the name used for this field in classifications of disciplines (such as for the Web of Science, ProQuest Dissertations & Theses (PQDT) subject category guide, Wikipedia), journal titles, names of association, and the majority of department names, the name for the field is *Gender Studies* (or sometimes *Gender and Sexuality Studies* or *Women's and Gender Studies*). We understand the departmental response which argues continuity in the current approved appellation but we suggest, "Gender and Sexuality Studies" with a tag line indicating global reach and issues of social justice and diversity.

Whereas, the Committee recognizes UB's pioneering history in Women's and Gender Studies and appreciates the current attempt to organize the present wide-ranging scholars in many departments. Because Dean Schulze fully supports this move and is willing to do cross-departmental line-sharing and collaboration and computation, the project is feasible as well as reasonable and desirable.

Whereas, the arguments for increased enrollments and collaboration are persuasive and promising. Also innovative is the new departmental model for the College. “It will be a department centered on a coherent thematic specialty that invites partial appointments from all disciplines in the unit and, in doing so, creates the possibility for expansion through hiring in any discipline in the College. This is a powerful structure that creates new opportunities for faculty and students to work together in new and exciting ways at the same time that it allows disciplinary specialties to thrive. Departmental status for GGS will help other departments recruit and retain cutting-edge interdisciplinary scholars working on the most pressing issues facing our society today. UB has incredible depth in the faculty who are actively engaged in research and teaching on women, gender, feminism, and sexuality.”

Whereas, the energetic support of the Dean marks a new era for such studies at UB and a real promise of excellence. It may provide as well a model for future organization and strength.

Therefore, be it resolved that: The Faculty Senate Academic Planning & Assessment Committee recommends the establishment of a Department of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies in The College of Arts & Sciences.

Sent for Consideration on:

Decision: