

REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:

The Women's Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) Program is requesting a change to the name of the program from "Women's Gender, and Sexuality Studies" to "Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Sexuality Studies" for the next possible catalog. The rationale for the change includes increasing campus visibility and elevating program distinction externally within UW-System and beyond. The evolution of the program as an academic field of inquiry continues to expand and requires a name change that corresponds with this level of evolvment. The program now supports a major and minor (WGSS and the WGSS minor). The program also administers four certificates (WGSS, LGBTQ Studies, Critical Hmong Studies, & Women of Color Feminisms). The wide program array exhibits the intersectionality that serves as the framework of the overall program and is better served by the requested name change.

Points Discussed by Committee:

1. Was there pushback on name change from stakeholders outside of the program (majority supportive, especially from affiliates).
2. Program name change only, not to any majors/minors/certificates.
3. Program name change impact on students.

Pros of Recommendation:

1. Program name change was supported by all faculty that contribute to the program.
2. Program name change will allow students to locate major, minor, and certificates more easily.

Cons of Recommendation:

none

Technology/Human Resource Impact:

None

Committee Recommendation:

The committee approved the name change of the program from "Women's Gender, and Sexuality Studies" to "Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Sexuality Studies" for the next possible catalog.

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of 9 for to 0 against on March 15, 2022 (Date)

Recommends that:

The rename of the program from “Women’s Gender, and Sexuality Studies” to “Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Sexuality Studies” for the next possible catalog, starting 2023-2024 AY. Due to the timing of request and subsequent approval of motion, changes to catalog can’t be made during the 2022-2023 AY, however the program will be permitted to use their new name/status for purposes other than the catalog.

Implementation Date: 23/24 catalog



Signed:

Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office