



**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Donna E. Shalala, President

**From:** Mary Coombs *mc*  
Chair, Faculty Senate

**Date:** September 7, 2005

**Subject:** Faculty Senate Legislation #2005-01(B) – Name change for the Women’s Studies program in the College of Arts and Sciences

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The Faculty Senate, at its August 31, 2005 meeting, voted unanimously to approve a proposal from the College of Arts and Sciences to change the name of the Women’s Studies program to the Women’s and Gender Studies program. The proposal is enclosed for your reference.

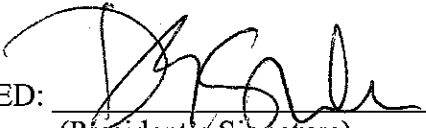
This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action. If approved, the change would become effective immediately.

MC/kl

cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost  
✓Michael Halleran, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
✓Richard Godbeer, Director of Women’s Studies

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2005-01(B) – Name change for Women’s Studies program in the College of Arts and Sciences

**PRESIDENT’S RESPONSE**

APPROVED:  DATE: Sept 21 2005  
(President’s Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: Provost & Dean of A&S

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: immediately  
(if other than June 1 next following)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): \_\_\_\_\_



Office of the Dean  
College of Arts and Sciences

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mary Coombs  
Chair of the Faculty Senate

FROM: Jane Connolly *Jane Connolly*  
Vice Dean for Arts and Humanities

SUBJECT: Proposed Name Change for Women's Studies

DATE: 20 April 2005

At the meeting of the College faculty of 19 April, the faculty voted unanimously in favor of the name change of the Women's Studies program to the Women's and Gender Studies program. As the enclosed memorandum from program director Lindsey Tucker indicates, the proposed new name reflects changes in the field as well as the research and teaching interests of a growing number of professors. I have spoken to Michael Halleran, the incoming dean of Arts and Sciences, about the name change, and he supports the proposal, as do the three Vice Deans currently leading the College. We trust that the Senate will add its support and approve the proposal.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please let me know.

CC: Michael Halleran  
Incoming Dean of Arts and Sciences

Angel Kaifer  
Vice Dean for Life and Physical Science

Rod Wellens  
Vice Dean for Social and Behavioral Science

Lindsey Tucker  
Director of Women's Studies

April 14, 2005

To: Jane Connolly, Vice Dean,  
College of Arts & Sciences

From: Lindsey Tucker, Interim Director, Women's Studies

RE: Revised Name Change for the Women's Studies Program

The proposal to change the name of the Women's Studies Program to "Women's and Gender Studies" is based on the recognition of the large and growing body of knowledge that has emerged in the academy in the last thirty years. "Women's Studies" has accurately described the research and theory that was begun during the time of the women's movement, when the initial focus was on the transformation of the educational curricula in a number of fields—humanities, social sciences and even the sciences. At that time Women's Studies introduced research and pedagogy that countered the dominant tendency to exclude women from the discourse altogether or to reflect an unexamined sexist bias. Important as this initial change was to the academy, it was only the beginning, and scholars soon recognized the need to include diverse groups of women—lesbians, Latina, Native American, African American and Asian American women, to name a few—so as to correct an initial concentration on heterosexual white women. Major contributions to knowledge were made by the inclusion of these groups, especially by challenging the idea that a dominant group provided a valid norm. This more inclusive approach both added to and altered the growing body of knowledge that comprised "Women's Studies." The methodologies developed by these scholars, which often focused on the relational aspects of multiple groups, were especially valuable to the deepening and growing sophistication of Women's Studies.

Finally, however, the study of women was perceived as too narrowly tied to an identity category that had come to be seen as somewhat essentialist, and limited. Not only did categories of race and class grow in importance, but also the need to include all gender categories; hence the emergence of a new field of scholarship that concerned itself with the constructed nature of sexual difference. Though pre-Women's Studies scholarship had focused almost exclusively on men, it rarely considered men as gendered; recent exponents of Gender Studies examine manhood as a category worthy of analysis itself. They recognize that men also have gender. Meanwhile, the study of sexual impulses, attitudes, and behavior has transformed our understanding of both men and women. The result has been the development of studies that go beyond the identity category of "women" and include masculinity and sexuality. The Women's Studies program can only be enriched by the inclusion of these new fields of research, and their potential benefit to our students—both female and male—must also be recognized.

The courses we offer in our program in the future can and will continue to address issues already addressed by Women's Studies, but they will also examine issues of gender, masculinity, and sexuality. In this way the program will be enriched by emergent fields, and avail itself of the talented faculty at UM who are already involved in such work.

Furthermore, such courses could, and should attract male students who might be interested in the study of gender. Thus, naming the program "Women's and Gender Studies" invites more participation of faculty who are already here and enhances the quality of our program.

**Women's Studies/Gender Studies: A sampling of U.S. colleges and universities**

**Women Studies programs:**

Amherst  
Antioch  
Barnard  
Boston College  
Bowdoin  
UC Irvine  
UC Santa Cruz  
CUNY  
Duke (Robyn Wiegman)  
UF  
FUA  
Georgetown  
Georgia, U of  
Harvard (Kath Weston)  
Illinois-Champaign  
Indiana SU  
Kent State  
Kentucky, U of (Dale M. Bauer)  
Maryland, U of  
Maryland, Baltimore Cty.  
Michigan State  
Minnesota, U of  
Nebraska, U of  
New York-Buffalo]  
    Binghamton  
    Stoneybrook  
North Carolina-Chapel Hill  
Oberlin  
Ohio State  
Ohio, U of  
Penn State  
Penn Purdue  
Radcliff  
Rhode Island U of  
Sarah Lawrence  
  
South Carolina, U of  
Southern Illinois

**Gender Studies, etc.**

UC-Davis (Women's & Gender studies)  
Southern Cal. (Gender Studies)  
Brown (Gender Studies)  
Bryn Mawr (Feminist & Gender St.)  
Chicago, U of (Gender Studies)  
Columbia (Women's & Gender St.)  
Conn. C. (Gender & Women's St.)  
Cornell (Feminist, Gender & Sexuality St)  
Dartmouth (Women's & Gender St.)  
Illinois-Chicago (Gender & Women's St)  
Johns Hopkins (Women's Gender &  
    Sexuality Studies)  
Mississippi, U of (Women's & Gender St.)  
North Carolina-Greensboro (Women's &  
    Gender Studies)  
Ohio Wesleyan (Women's & Gender St.)  
Princeton (Women's & Gender St.)  
  
Rice (Women's & Gender St.)  
  
Rutgers, NB. (Women's & Gender St.)  
Stanford (Feminist Studies)  
  
Texas (Women's and Gender St.)