



The John Knoblock
Faculty Senate Office
Ashe Administration Building, #325
1252 Memorial Drive
Coral Gables, FL 33146

facsen@miami.edu
web site: www.miami.edu/fs
P: 305-284-3721
F: 305-284-5515

MEMORANDUM

To: Julio Frenk
University President

From: Tomás A. Salerno
Chair, Faculty Senate

Date: September 27, 2018

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2018-16 (B) –Name Change of Women’s and Gender Studies Program, Undergraduate Major and Minor TO the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, Undergraduate Major and Minor, College of Arts and Sciences

The Faculty Senate, at its September 26, 2018 meeting, had *no objections* to the proposal from the College of Arts and Sciences to change the name of Women’s and Gender Studies program, undergraduate major and minor TO the Gender and Sexuality Studies program, undergraduate major and minor. This name change brings the name in line with many of our aspirational peer institutions. No other changes are being made.

The Faculty Senate does not approve budget concepts, therefore no budget information is included here.

This legislation is sent to you for your action.

TAS/rh

Enclosure

cc: Jeffrey Duerk, Executive Vice President and Provost
Leonidas Bachas, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Merike Blofield, Associate Professor, College of Arts and Sciences, Women and Gender Studies

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2018-16 (B) – Name Change of Women’s and Gender Studies Program, Undergraduate Major and Minor TO the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, Undergraduate Major and Minor, College of Arts and Sciences

PRESIDENT’S RESPONSE

APPROVED: 
(President’s Signature)

DATE: 11/6/18

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: Dean Leonidas Bachas

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: IMMEDIATELY (Pending any additional required Board of Trustees approval)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____



**Proposal
Submission Checklist**
revised 11/13/17

Proposals are to be submitted in the following order as applicable: to the Office of Assessment and Accreditation (OAA), for academic programs (allow 2 weeks for a response), the Graduate Council (for graduate programs excluding Law and Medical) (allow 1 week for response), if applicable, and the Faculty Senate.

Refer to the Graduate Council's Procedures for Program Changes document for information on the approvals and notifications needed for Graduate program changes and the Proposal Submissions Specifications document for an explanation of the process and a list of the materials required.

(Please note that change approvals can take 2 semesters to complete.)

*Include this checklist at the beginning of each proposal.
(Complete the information below, save the form as a pdf, and insert it with the background materials that are specified, in the order listed, and send the package in 1-pdf document electronically as noted above.)*

KEY CONTACT PERSONNEL INFORMATION

First Name

Merike

Last Name

Blofield

Proponent's Title

Associate Professor

Department, if applicable

Women's and Gender Studies

School/College

Arts and Sciences

E-mail

m.blofield@miami.edu

Phone

2058511560

Title of Proposal

Proposal to change the name of the Women's and Gender Studies undergraduate major and minor in the College of Arts and Sciences to the Gender and Sexuality Studies undergraduate major and minor.

(-continue to next page-)

MANDATORY MEMORANDA AND FORMAT

Please check that each item listed below is included in the proposal package of materials. The applicable title (i.e. Letter of Explanation, Memo from the Dean, etc.) must precede each section in the materials.

Only proposals conforming to this format will be accepted.

1. This completed checklist.

2. Letter of explanation. (2-3 pages only, double spaced, 12 pt font)

Yes No

If no, explain why.

3. A memo from the Dean(s) 1) signifying approval and, 2) signifying approval of the faculty of the relevant School(s) / Colleges(s).

Yes No

If no, explain why.

4. A memo that all affected or relevant School / College Council(s) have approved.

Yes No

If no, explain why.

5. A memo from the department chair(s) signifying approval of the faculty of the relevant department(s).

Yes No

If no, explain why.

The inter-disciplinary WGS is run by a Director with a steering committee, which unanimously initiated and supported the name change.

6. A memo from the Office of Accreditation and Assessment (OAA) if the proposal involves academic programs (degrees, certificates, majors, minors, concentrations, specializations, tracks, etc.) such as new programs, closing programs, or program changes (such as changes in requirements, program length, modality, name, location).

(To be submitted by OAA to the Graduate Council or the Faculty Senate, as appropriate.)

Applicable Not applicable.

If not, explain why.

7. A memo from the Graduate School Dean signifying approval of the Graduate Council (for graduate programs only, excluding Law and Medical).

(To be submitted to the Faculty Senate by the Graduate Council.)

Applicable Not applicable.

If not, explain why.

WGS is only an undergraduate program.

8. Academic Deans Policy Council (ADPC) approval, for interdisciplinary issues and as appropriate. Please consult with the Dean of the Graduate School or the Secretary of the Faculty Senate to check if this is needed prior to submission.

Yes No

If no, explain why.

This is not needed.

9. Additional required documents as listed on the "[Proposal Submissions Specifications](#)," i.e. market analysis, budget information, assessment of library collections, etc. as specified.

List additional documents included.

End form.

Letter of explanation for WGS name change

Changing the program name from Women's and Gender Studies to Gender and Sexuality

Studies:

There are two components to the name change: first, taking out "women" from the title; and second, adding "sexuality" to the title. I address both in turn. Overall, there are multiple benefits to re-naming the Women's and Gender Studies Program the Gender and Sexuality Studies program.

On the first issue, eliminating "women" and keeping "gender" in the title is more inclusive and a better reflection of the academic content of the program. In fact, having women in the title is both redundant and exclusive. Both women *and* men have a gender, and referring only to women in the program title is an inaccurate reflection of the thematic content of the program. It also sends the message that courses in this program are meant only or preferably for women, and that men may not be welcome.

In the words of our Core WGS Senior Lecturer, and expert in gender studies, Dr. Porter, one the usefulness of the name change to both reflect content and signal to potential interested students: "Psychologists like Janet Shibley Hyde (2005) have shown that people who integrate the qualities of both men and women are more successful in their careers and in their family lives. The name Gender Studies better reflects the program's gender-integrated pedagogy and research. Along with providing students with education that promotes their future success, gender studies courses are unique places for students of all genders to recognize not just what

they have in common, but distinctive things about each other's lived experiences; this can help dispel negative ideas about gender. The name "Gender Studies" better communicates to students that all of us have a gender, not just women. This is beneficial to male students, as well as to all genders. To study research and engage in comfortable classroom discussions on the lived experiences of all genders benefits gives students the ability to be astute thinkers and empathic citizens. Currently in our society, there is a critical need for people of all genders to have positive experiences learning from one another. To re-name the program Gender studies courses encourages the courses to be perceived as a place where all students can feel comfortable as learners."

On the second issue, adding ""sexuality" to the title, sexuality studies is its own research area, which overlaps but is not synonymous with gender studies. WGS currently offers courses that focus on or include sexuality studies, and therefore it should be included in the title. We house the LGBTQ Studies minor, which specifically focuses on sexuality studies. Thus, to best reflect program context, sexuality should be in the title.

When Women's and Gender Studies programs were created across university campuses, often in the 1970s, they were referred to as Women's Studies programs. Later, gender was added to reflect the evolving content of these programs. Now, many of our aspirational peer institutions have reformed their programs further, in line with what we propose here. For example, New York University, Tulane University, and the University of Southern California have gender and sexuality studies programs.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
COLLEGE of
ARTS & SCIENCES



Office of the Dean
1252 Memorial Drive, Suite 227
Coral Gables, Florida 33146

Phone: 305-284-4117
Fax: 305-284-5637
as.miami.edu

To: Tomas Salerno
Chair, Faculty Senate

From: Leonidas Bachas
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'LBachas'.

Subject: Proposal to change the name of "Women's and Gender Studies" to
"Gender and Sexuality Studies"

Date: May 18, 2018

Dear Tom,

I am writing to express my full support of the Proposal to change the name of Women's and Gender Studies to Gender and Sexuality Studies. On April 2, 2018, the Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences voted in favor of this name change. I am forwarding the proposal to the Senate for action.

For your convenience, attached you will find a copy of the proposal. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

LGB/rkg

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI




Assessment and Accreditation
Gables One Tower 1320 S. Dixie Hwy
Coral Gables, Florida 33146

Phone: 305-284-5120
Fax: 305-284-4929
oaa.miami.edu

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 29, 2018

TO: Merike Blofield, Associate Professor
College of Arts and Sciences

FROM: Patty Murphy, Executive Director
Office of Assessment and Accreditation 

RE: Name Change for the Women's and Gender Studies Program

On August 28, 2018, the College of Arts and Sciences notified my office of its intent to rename the interdisciplinary program in Women's and Gender Studies to Gender and Sexuality Studies. The proposal will also involve changing the name of the undergraduate major (academic plan code: WGST_AB) and minor (academic plan code: WGST_MN) in Women's and Gender Studies to Gender and Sexuality Studies.

The proposed changes will be effective as of the Fall 2019 term. Current majors and minors will be able to complete their programs under the current name. As of Fall 2019, any student who declares a new major or minor will utilize the new name. The acronym for the program (course subject area) will also change from "WGS" to "GSS" effective Fall 2019.

The proposed name change does not "represent a significant departure, either in content or method of delivery" from what we are currently approved by SACSCOC to offer due to the following:

- The proposed change does not affect the program length, degree requirements, or curriculum of the major or minor.
- No new courses will be offered as a result of the proposed change, just a change in the course subject acronym.
- No new faculty will be hired as a result of the proposed change.
- The majority of the program will not be offered via distance education and, in any case, the University is approved to offer 100% distance education programs.
- The programs will continue to be offered on the University's Coral Gables campus.

SACSCOC only requires notification of program changes that represent a significant departure from our current programs. Therefore, no notification or approval is required for this change.

Please contact me if you have any questions at pattymurphy@miami.edu or (305) 284-3276.

Item #4:

The following entities have debated and approved the WGS name change proposal:

- 1. Fall 2017: WGS Steering Committee (unanimous initiation and approval)**
- 2. Feb 2018: CAS Curriculum Committee approval, with three abstentions**
- 3. Feb 2018: CAS College Council approval for debate at CAS-wide faculty meeting, unanimous**
- 4. April 2018: CAS Faculty approval, 32 in favor, 4 opposed, and 1 abstention**