



## **Interdisciplinary Studies Department**

**Women's Studies Program**

**Individualized & Applied Studies Program**

**College Assistance Migrant Program**

**Center for Latin American & Border Studies**

College of Arts and Sciences

New Mexico State University

PO Box 30001, MSC IDS

Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001

(575) 646-4396 - Voice

(575) 646-6200 - Fax

**Date:** May 13, 2016

**Title:** Women's Studies to Gender and Sexuality Studies

**Sponsors:** Manal Hamzeh & Laura Williams

Department of Interdisciplinary Studies/Women's Studies Program

College of Arts & Sciences

Mexico State University

**Description:** The Women Studies Program proposes to rename itself as an academic unit, its undergraduate major, undergraduate and graduate minor and its courses to **Gender and Sexuality Studies**.

Our faculty enthusiastically supports this name change. On April 19, 2016 the IDS faculty unanimously (total of 6) voted to change the academic unit and degree's name from "Women's Studies" to "Gender and Sexuality Studies".

### **Justification:**

1. Gender and Sexuality Studies would reflect the national trends and contemporary status in the field/discipline. Women's Studies is a field that has undergone substantial transformations in research and teaching since its earliest days in the 1970s. Gender and Sexuality Studies reflects this evolution, which represents a wider and more complex body of knowledge in the field of inquiry it names. The change of name would be move beyond the traditional and narrower scope implied by "Women's Studies" to more accurately describe our curriculum.
2. Gender and Sexuality Studies would be more distinct thus more competitive to similar academic degrees offered by our peer institutions, which are named either Women's Studies or Women's and Gender Studies—Arizona (3), Colorado (6), Texas (4) and Albuquerque/UNM (1).
3. Gender and Sexuality Studies would also signal the academic unit openness to interdisciplinary and diverse intellectual approaches, cross-listings, and collaborations with several departments across campus. As such, the newly named academic unit would become more attractive to a wider body of students nationally and internationally. That is, it would respond to students' interests—who are already aware of the field's growth—and career ambitions and needs. Additionally, the Gender and Sexuality Studies would become more visible, accessible and attractive to students who identify with an array of genders and sexualities. This change should enhance our ability to recruit students to the various degrees we offer, hence, increase student enrollment (FTE).
4. Gender and Sexuality Studies would not change in academic substance, focus, or direction in general and the degrees it offers in particular. Rather it would represent the outcome of a multi-year growth process, which has included our diverse and wide fields of specialization, our mission statement, our core curriculum, and the needs of the BAS and BIS students served by the new department of IDS. Without any additional faculty, the Women's Studies Program has already been offering a breadth of courses in these areas representing a wider body of knowledge and reflecting



## **Interdisciplinary Studies Department**

**Women's Studies Program**

**Individualized & Applied Studies Program**

**College Assistance Migrant Program**

**Center for Latin American & Border Studies**

College of Arts and Sciences

New Mexico State University

PO Box 30001, MSC IDS

Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001

(575) 646-4396 - Voice

(575) 646-6200 - Fax

our faculty's fields of specialization and the diverse range of research and teaching that is undertaken by students and faculty. This change becomes timely to the recent transformation of WSP to a fully online degree. NMSU's Women's Studies Program (WSP) started in 1989 and has made leaps since then with the hiring of two-tenure track faculty in 2009, another in 2014, and a full-time director since in 2012. Today we are one of the growing online degrees on campus with only two associate professors and one assistant professor while being the core academic unit of newly formed department of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS).

5. Gender and Sexuality Studies would attract more funding for its wider reach and interdisciplinary representations.

**Budgetary & Staff Implications:** None

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Patti Wojahn'.

Patti Wojahn

Interdisciplinary Studies Head

Manal Hamzeh

Associate Professor

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Manal Hamzeh'.

NAME change

College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Changes/Revisions/New Degrees/Programs

Signatures with number of votes:

Department Curriculum Committee, Chair  
Votes: Yes No Abstain

Date

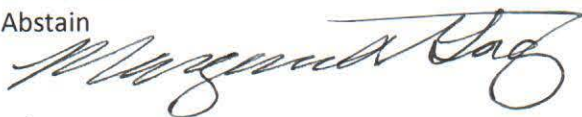
Academic Department Head  
Votes: Yes No Abstain

Date

College Curriculum Committee, Chair  
Votes: Yes No Abstain

Date

unanimous



9/26/16

Associate Dean for Academics  
Votes: Yes No Abstain

Date



10-24-16

Dean of Arts and Sciences  
Votes: Yes No Abstain

Date



10/24/16

ADAC, Chair  
Votes: Yes No Abstain

Date 10/25/16



10/24/16

ADC, Chair  
Votes: Yes No Abstain

Date