

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S STUDIES**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to change the following names in the Department of Women's Studies: (1) Bachelor of Arts Program in Women's Studies to the Bachelor of Arts Program in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies; and (2) Department of Women's Studies to the Department of Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies.

Executive Summary: The proposed names reflect the impending merger of the courses offered in the Sexuality Studies Certificate Program, which has been proposed for termination, into the Department of Women's Studies. This request has been reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan objective (1.1) to "offer high-quality programs through ongoing program improvement for undergraduate, graduate, professional, and non-degree students and special school students."

Background:

◇ **Description of department and program.** The Women's Studies Program is an interdisciplinary program that brings the perspective of gender, class, race, ethnicity, nationality, sexuality, and physical ability to bear on a host of intellectual problems and issues of current concern. It encourages critical thinking across the disciplines, with particular reference to women's contributions to art, history, politics, family life, science, literature, and other cultural domains.

The Women's Studies Department, which was created in 2000, has one full-time faculty appointment and seven faculty members with joint appointments. Approximately 55 other faculty members at the University are affiliated with Women's Studies and cross-list their feminist courses with Women's Studies, supervise graduate students, or serve on Women's Studies committees.

◇ **Comparable name at other institutions.** Many institutions have a similar name, including the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Illinois – Department of Gender and Women's Studies; University of Minnesota – Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies; and the University of Northern Iowa – Women's and Gender Studies. The University of Iowa program will be unique in its multi-focus emphasis on sexuality, gender, and their intersection with women's studies, reflecting the national trend to integrate these fields.

◇ **Goals of proposed name changes.** The proposed names will reflect the addition of the sexuality studies courses into the curriculum and will help students understand their importance in relation to the discipline of women's studies.

◇ **Effect on students.** There will be no changes in the foreseeable future regarding degree requirements as part of the proposed structural reorganization. Over time, revisions to course titles and descriptions will occur to reflect more appropriately the integration of the sexuality studies courses into the department.

- ◇ Effect on resources. No new faculty, staff, or facilities will be required. The proposed name changes result from the termination of the Sexuality Studies Certificate Program to make better use of resources, streamline administrative functions, and preserve important course offerings for students.

- ◇ Date of implementation. The proposed name changes will become effective upon approval by the Board of Regents.