

UPIII Planning Document: Women's Studies Program

Submitted October 1, 2008

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Section 1: Mission and Aspirations

Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary program that reaches across college boundaries and includes scholars with a wide variety of disciplinary backgrounds. Women's Studies offers students the opportunity to explore issues of gender and sexuality through a major, minor, and graduate program. Our Women's Studies program not only fills in the gaps in our knowledge about women and men but also stimulates us to review and reflect on how our knowledge is gendered. Our classes promote critical thinking, writing and analytical skills. The core coursework for Women's Studies incorporates humanities, social sciences, and arts. Women's Studies has good depth in humanities course offerings, and consistency in arts course offerings. Due to faculty retirements and to the configuration of new hires in other departments, Women's Studies has lost some depth in social science-based course offerings. Increased expertise at UW in this area would allow students to develop a stronger understanding of global women's issues, in particular related to social and economic development.

Section 2: Previous planning accomplishments from 2004-2009 plan

Item	Fulfilled	Unfulfilled
WMST 1: develop three concentrations within the Women's Studies curriculum: Art, Literature and Culture; International and Global Perspectives; and Gender and Diversity.	The Art and Culture, and the Gender and Diversity concentrations have expanded, and improved depth.	The International and Global Perspectives concentration gained several new courses, but lost more courses due to retirements and non-hiring in this area.
WMST 2 Implement assessment plan and evaluate program	Full assessment of core curriculum, application of lessons, and next steps taken.	
WMST 5 Enhance WMST service-learning emphasis	WMST cooperated with other Interdisciplinary programs in establishing Intro to Social Justice, an I course with service learning	
WMST 8 Pursue discussions to found WMST MA degree	Focus changed to graduate minor, which has been put into place	
15 action items	8 completed, 5 ongoing or pending	2 unfulfilled
NOT IN OUR LAST PLAN: Women's Studies minor through outreach	very successful implementation of WMST minor through the Outreach School	

Section 3: Relevant Institutional Issues:

For the term that University Plan III will run, Women's Studies seeks to redefine some core program elements, as well as to strengthen our program by broadening its scope and by enriching three concentrations: humanities, internationalization, and issues related to Wyoming and the Rocky Mountain

region. WMST is supportive of cross-college initiatives that will enhance our student and faculty opportunities for intellectual growth: the Institute for Global Affairs, the Humanities Institute, and the Center for Ethnographic Writing.

Action Items:

A List: Items with Fiscal Implications

WMST—1 Seek to replace lost expertise and expand the scope of faculty expertise in International/Global women's and gender issues in social science disciplines. This will allow WMST to strengthen its major and minor concentration in International and Global issues. It will also strengthen related programs like International Studies, and will enhance internationalization of the University.

WMST 2: Improve the rate of compensation for lecturers who teach on a per course basis. Many WMST lecturers offer sections WMST 1080, Introduction to Women's Studies, which is a D (diversity) course for USP. Demand for this course cannot be fully met, despite yearly growth in numbers of sections. Increasing compensation for lecturers will allow us to enhance D (diversity) offerings at UW.

WMST 3: Regularize lecturer positions, turning ad hoc appointments into APL lines. This will enhance D offerings.

WMST 4: Establish an interdisciplinary minor in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LBGTQ) Studies.

WMST 5: Ask for increases in support and excellence budgets in order to support efforts that enrich and enhance student experiences at UW. One such request will be partial support to students participating in the Women's Study abroad course in India.

WMST 6: Enhance already strong cooperation with the Outreach School, to continue making the Women's Studies minor available on-line, and to provide more sections of D (diversity) courses.

B List: Items without significant fiscal demands

WMST 7: Revise some elements of the WMST core curriculum. We will introduce new courses or revise courses in order to teach students method and theory earlier in the major and minor; make general interest WMST courses available at the 2000 level; make better use of faculty interests and expertise; and integrate issues of ethnicity, race, and various forms of "otherness" more thoroughly into the curriculum, adding more D courses to the WMST curriculum.

WMST 8: Explore changing the name of our program to Gender Studies, or Women's and Gender Studies, and explore seeking department status. The name change reflects changes in the coursework that WMST offers, and trends in the discipline.

WMST 9: Implement second-stage assessment actions, drawing on feedback from the first assessment steps.

WMST 10: Plan curricular and co-curricular activities to build leadership and develop interaction among majors and minors.

WMST 11: Take a leadership role in drawing attention to women's issues in Wyoming. WMST will continue working with a variety of University of Wyoming student organizations, state organizations and commissions, private foundations, and public interest groups to launch and coordinate projects that address issues like the gender wage gap, domestic violence, etc.

WMST 12: Establish an endowment for an annual women's and gender studies lecture.

SECTION II Interdisciplinary program cooperation

A number of the A&S interdisciplinary programs, including AAST, AIST, AMST, CHST, INST, and WMST see a need for consistently offering our students coursework in methods of interdisciplinary research. When our programs, individually, or jointly, are given the opportunity to hire new faculty, we will include this interest in position advertisements, and will explore other ways to jointly offer such a course.

IMPLEMENTATION

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
1 Global expertise	ongoing				
2 lecturer compansation	ongoing				
3 regularize lecturer positions		define and propose changes			
4. minor in LGBTQ studies	initiate Intro course	design minor from new and existing courses	propose minor		
5. increase excellence budgets	ongoing	---	---	---	ongoing
6. cooperation with Outreach	ongoing	---	---	---	ongoing
7. revise WMST core curriculum	ongoing	---	---	---	ongoing
8. name change, dept. status		propose changes			
9. second stage assessment	implement				
10. cohort building	implement				
11. leadership on WY women's issues	wage gap ongoing	identify new issues	focus series of events	ongoing	ongoing
12. endowment for lecture	implement				

Some items, such as 1, 2, 3, and 5, involve funds and actions from administration, and so implementation is contingent on cooperation.