

October 16, 2003

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Professor Behe,  
UCAP Chairperson

**FROM:** Jacqueline Wright,  
Secretary for Academic Governance

**SUBJECT:** Name Change for Women's Studies

The ECAC reviewed a proposal from the College of Arts and Letters and the College of Social Science requesting the name of the Women's Studies Program be changed to the *Program in Women, Gender, and Social Justice*. The Committee requests the UCAP to review the question and attached materials. Please respond by November 3, 2003. Thank you.

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
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October 2, 2003

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Dr. Jon Sticklen, Chairperson  
Executive Committee of Academic Council

**FROM:** Lou Anna K. Simon, Provost *LAKS*

**SUBJECT:** Name Change for Women's Studies

The College of Arts and Letters and the College of Social Science have requested that the name of the Women's Studies Program be changed to the "Program in Women, Gender, and Social Justice." A copy of the proposal is attached for your review.

I seek the advice of the Executive Committee of Academic Council as to which University-level governance committees, if any, should be consulted regarding this proposal. Representatives of the College of Arts and Letters and the College of Social Science will be at the October 14 meeting of the Executive Committee of Academic Council to discuss this proposal.



**OFFICE OF THE**  
**PROVOST**

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- C:** Members, Executive Committee of Academic Council  
Assistant Provost Banks  
Assistant Provost and Dean Klomparens  
Assistant Provost Youatt  
Assistant Provost Stanford  
Dean Baba  
Dean Wilkins  
Dr. Schuiteman

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RECEIVED

SEP 30 2003

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

September 23, 2003

To: Lou Anna K. Simon, Provost and Interim President  
From: Wendy K. Wilkins, Dean, College of Arts & Letters *WW*  
Subject: Name Change for Women's Studies

The College of Arts and Letters and the College of Social Science endorse the proposed change in the name of the Women's Studies Program from the current designation to the "Program in Women, Gender, and Social Justice." We are attaching a request and the rationale for this change, as submitted by Interim Director of Women's Studies, Dr. Jayne Schuiteman.

We do not feel that this request needs to go through the curricular review process at this time, since no curricular change is involved with the name change. Requests for curricular changes to the undergraduate and graduate programs currently in Women's Studies are forthcoming and will be submitted through the regular curriculum process. If the name change is approved, a revised introductory text under the new program title for the Academic Programs catalog will also be submitted to the UC&C.



COLLEGE OF

**ARTS AND LETTERS**

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If you concur with this request for a name change, we would appreciate your directing it to the Executive Committee of Academic Council or the appropriate offices and committees for review and approval. Thank you very much.

Concurrence:

*Marietta L. Baba* 9/29/03  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marietta L. Baba, Dean Date  
College of Social Science

Request and Rationale for Program Name Change  
The Women's Studies Program  
September 17, 2003

The Women's Studies Program formally requests that the name of the administrative unit be changed from the Women's Studies Program to the Program in Women, Gender, and Social Justice. The name change request culminates from an extensive internal program review that took place last year. The Women's Studies Advisory Council, with input from affiliated faculty from across the campus, proposed significant directional changes for the program that would reflect cutting edge trends in the fields of women's and gender studies. Those shifts in focus include a broader understanding of gender and the fluidity of both gender identity and presentation along with broader understandings of power relations/distributions of power that fall along gendered lines. Such expanded understandings will allow for the very necessary inclusion of men and masculinity studies, sexuality, and gender identity studies within the program.

In addition to expanded understandings of gender as one aspect of identity, the program is moving in a direction that will more explicitly examine gender and its intersections with other aspects of identity such as race, ethnicity, sexual identity, ability, class, and age. Such intersections are intricately related to distributions of power and privilege for both individuals and groups of people. Thus, the program's efforts to explicitly examine those intersections with considerations given to issues of privilege and oppression will include an underlying theme of social justice.

Because of these new programmatic directions, the old title, the Women's Studies Program, no longer captures its primary essence. Rather, the newly proposed title, the Program in Women, Gender, and Social Justice better reflects the emerging directional changes and mission.

Directional changes will be implemented through a new undergraduate specialization that will be put forward for review and approval this fall. The specialization will include content specific tracks for students to pursue. The tracks under review this fall for approval include:

- Gender, Narrative, and History
- Gender, Race, and Ethnic Identity
- Gender and Conflict/Violence
- Gender and Sexuality

Four more tracks will be submitted for approval next fall. Those tracks will include:

- Gender and Urban Spaces
- Gender and Literary, Visual, and Performance Arts
- Gender and Health
- Gender and Public Policy (in conjunction with James Madison College)

The Women's Studies major was placed on moratorium status effective fall, 2003. Students currently enrolled in the major will complete their BA degree in the College of Arts and Letters. The moratorium period is three years, at which time the major will be discontinued and the undergraduate specialization will already be in place.

A graduate specialization was approved for the program; however, it is being extensively reviewed and revised. The revisions will be submitted for approval this spring. The new graduate specialization will be called **Gender, Theory, and Representation**. It will have three primary areas of focus for students to pursue. They include:

- Comparative and Cultural Studies
- Sexuality Studies
- Gender, Violence, and Conflict.