

12-11-1989

General Degree Requirements - Scholarship on Women

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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Resolution 7 1989-90

TO: President John E. Van de Wetering

FROM: The Faculty Senate Meeting on 12-11-89
(Date)

RE: X I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)
II. Recommendation (Urging the fitness of)
III. Other (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)

SUBJECT: General Degree Requirements-Scholarship on Women

RECEIVED
DEC 13 1989

Signed James S. Elliott Date Sent 12-19-89
(For the Senate)

TO: The Faculty Senate

FROM: President John E. Van de Wetering

RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution

a. Accepted. Effective Date AYP with the class will add early implementation date

b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on _____

c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II, III.

a. Received and acknowledged

b. Comment:

DISTRIBUTION: See Attached

NOTE: Call if you need full document

Distribution Date 12/20/89 Signed: [Signature]
(President of the College)

SUNY College at Brockport
Faculty Senate
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Report to the Faculty Senate, November 13, 1989.

Your Committee has considered during the Spring, 1989 term and the present term a proposal from the Women's Studies Board for a general degree requirement, described on the next page. Last spring your Committee reported on this proposal to the Senate but did not ask for a vote. (Minutes of May 17, 1989)

The proposal was refined and your Committee further considered it this fall, and after much discussion approved a motion to recommend that the Senate accept it. Thirteen members of the Committee were present for the discussion and vote on October 30; five members were absent. The voice vote carried with no dissenting vote and with three abstentions.

The motion for your consideration is page 1. Pages 2 and 3 are information and suggestions how the proposal, if approved, might be implemented.

PROPOSAL FOR A GENERAL DEGREE REQUIREMENT
FROM THE WOMEN'S STUDIES BOARD

Proposed additional requirement for all B.A., B.F.A., B.S., and B.S.N. degrees, including Delta College programs.

WHEREAS: Women represent half of the human species, and

WHEREAS: All students should be made aware of the scholarship on women, and

WHEREAS: A survey of recent Brockport graduates has determined that at least half of Brockport students heretofore have graduated without taking any course which deals with the scholarship on women,¹

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Every candidate for a baccalaureate degree must include in her/his program of study at least one course from the list of courses which include a unit on scholarship on women.

***Definition of an acceptable course:

Any course which focuses substantially, though not necessarily exclusively, on women's experiences and perspectives, integrating recent scholarship on women, and incorporating gender as a category of analysis appropriate to the particular discipline or area of the course.

This definition is similar to that used to evaluate courses proposed to satisfy the requirement for comparative perspectives within the breadth components of General Education.

***Effective date

This requirement will become effective for all students who matriculate on or after the beginning of the fall semester next after it is approved.

¹See Taking Women Students Seriously, A Report of the Standing Committee on Women's Issues, SUNY College at Brockport, Spring 1989, pp. 14-16. The questions were:

- (1) How many courses have you taken that devote some time to the discussion of women's roles, or of gender issues?
- (2) How often [in this course] have assignments included material on how women's lives related to social, economic, and political systems?

Information -- Proposal from Women's Studies Board, page 2

***Resources

The proposers believe that this requirement would not require additional faculty resources. Some current courses (e.g. WMS courses, and others whose titles might not signify their attention to scholarship on women) already have content appropriate to meet this requirement. "The Curriculum Integration Project" at Brockport, funded during 1988-89 by a \$40,000 grant from the NYS/UUP Affirmative Action Committee of SUNY to encourage faculty to become more familiar with the scholarship on women in their disciplines, has led to some faculty revising their courses in ways that would fulfill this requirement. A portion of this grant is not yet expended and would be available to foster additional curriculum integration activities. The proposers feel that after these funds are exhausted, a small but reliable ongoing fund, for example \$1200 per year for three years, to offer modest incentives to faculty to undertake the necessary study to prepare to integrate scholarship on women into their courses would be useful.

***Administration of the requirement:

The proposers suggest the following solutions to administrative problems this general requirement generates:

1. Approval of courses

This should be done under the auspices of the General Education Coordinating Committee. Perhaps a subcommittee, including representation of the Women's Studies Board, would be the appropriate mechanism.

The process of certifying courses and of encouraging faculty to revise their courses is expected to be on going, and may well take several years; however, since approximately 50% of graduates already have included a course which devotes some time to the discussion of women's roles or of gender issues, it can be expected that a substantial list could be started almost immediately.

Both lower division and upper division courses could be proposed for inclusion on the list. Courses which satisfy a major requirement, a breadth component requirement, or the contemporary issues requirement could also at the same time satisfy this requirement. Freely chosen electives could also satisfy this requirement. Liberal arts courses (suffix A) and Professional courses (suffix B) may be appropriate for inclusion on the list.

Multiple section courses. If a department or program chooses to offer multiple sections of a course, some of which would meet the criteria for inclusion on the list and others would not, or if a course when offered by some instructors would meet the criteria but the same course when offered by other instructors would not intend to meet the criteria, then two separate course numbers should be used, as is the current practice of the Sociology Department for its introductory course:

SOL 100 AS	INTRO TO SOC	3 credits
SOL 101 AST	INTRO SOCIOLOGY	3 credits

Information -- Proposal from Women's Studies Board, page 3

Approved courses would be listed in the catalog and in the Class Schedule with an appropriate suffix designator.

2. Application of requirement to transfer students

Transfer students could satisfy this requirement by transfer of credit for a course that clearly (by title or catalog description) includes a substantial emphasis on the scholarship on women. Transfer students who believe that they have taken a course that meets the intent of this requirement but whose title or catalog description leaves doubt, could petition the General Education Coordinating Committee (or the subcommittee if one be established to certify Brockport courses) for adjudication of their transfer credit with respect to this requirement.

3. Questions concerning the fulfillment of this requirement would be referred to the Dean for General Education.

J. Emory Morris
in consultation with
Beth Vanfossen