

5-13-1999

Proposed Undergraduate Program for a Major in Women's Studies

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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BROCKPORT

Faculty Senate
State University of New York
College at Brockport
350 New Campus Drive
Brockport, NY 14420-2925

FACULTY SENATE
SUNY College at Brockport

SEP 22 1999

350 New Campus Drive
Brockport, NY 14420-2925

Resolution#25

1998-99

FACULTY SENATE

TO: Dr. Paul Yu, College President

FROM: The Faculty Senate Meeting on: *May 13, 1999*

RE: I. Formal Resolution (*Act of Determination*)
 II. Recommendation (*Urging the Fitness of*)
 III. Other, For your Information (*Notice, Request, Report, etc.*)

SUBJ: *Proposed Undergraduate Program for a Major in Women's Studies*

Signed: *Thomas Bonner* Date Sent: *6/10/99*
(Thomas Bonner, Faculty Senate President)



TO: The Faculty Senate

FROM: Dr. Paul Yu, College President

RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution
a. Accepted. Effective 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: *Referred to the Academic Programs Committee*

DISTRIBUTION: *Administrative Group*

Distribution Date: *7/16/99* Signed: *Paul Yu*
(President of the College)

Resolution Disk::9899-25::ayk

Working copy with added appendix 13.

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
PROPOSED UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM**

Cover Sheet

Campus(es):¹ (Specify name of branch campus, if relevant. If joint with another institution, specify institution.)
SUNY COLLEGE AT BROOKPORT

Proposed program title:
WOMEN'S STUDIES

Proposed award:
BS

Total credit hours:
36

Academic unit(s) that will offer program:
WOMEN'S STUDIES

Suggested HEGIS code:
4999

Proposed beginning date:
FALL 2001

Program summary: (As an attachment to this cover, describe in 250 words or fewer, the purpose, content, and structure of the proposed program.)

Project enrollment:	Year 1	Year 3	Year 5
Full-time students	20	25	25
Part-time students	2	2	2

Will program lead to certification or licensure? (Yes/No) If Yes, in what field or specialty?
NO

Will special accreditation be sought? (Yes/No) If Yes, by what group? By what date?
NO

Will program or any constituent courses be offered off-campus? (Yes/No) YES

If Yes, at what address? METROCENTER, DOWNTOWN ROCHESTER

How much? (specify number of courses and related credits) | 3-credit course

Via telecommunications? (Yes/No) If Yes, to what location(s)? NO

For more information, contact the following academic officer:

Name: DR. JENNIFER M. LLOYD

E-mail: jllloyd@brockport.edu

Title: DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S STUDIES

Voice: 716 395-5700

Fax: 716 395-2620

II. Campus and System Planning

1. PURPOSE, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

Purpose

To establish a major in Women's Studies

Goals

- To teach and learn about all women's experiences, past and present, to make women visible in their similarities and their differences, and to value personal experience as a way of knowing.
- To provide an inclusive view of human experience.
- To create and produce new scholarship and new knowledge about women, and apply it to personal, political, and institutional change.

Objectives

Students will:

- analyze the nature of traditional gender roles and the function of these roles in US and other societies and cultures.
- identify the intersections of gender, race, and class.
- understand the history of feminist efforts to change women's conditions.
- analyze the range of feminisms and feminist theories.
- define how feminist theory challenges and affects their assumptions.
- apply feminist research methods.
- work cooperatively to explore gender roles and feminist theory.
- connect classroom learning to their personal experience.
- analyze their life experiences using gender analysis and feminist theory.
- devise personal strategies of empowerment.

Brockport already has a Women's Studies minor, which would continue alongside the major. The College also requires all students to take a course that includes scholarship on women's issues through its Perspectives on Women requirement in the General Education program. This proposal would add one course (WMS 271) available to all students. The English, Sociology, Health Science, and History departments have significant numbers of cross-listed courses, and the Director of Women's Studies will explore the possibility of formal double majors with these departments. In general, the major should

increase enrollment in cross-listed courses in other departments, since it requires 5 electives, rather than the 3 required by the minor. This proposal is primarily a restructuring of existing courses and resources.

12. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAM TO THE APPROVED MISSION OF THE COLLEGE

Double
major?

- "Is committed to providing a liberal arts education..." Women's Studies is a recognized part of a liberal arts education. It rests on a substantial and growing body of scholarship, and is one of the fastest-growing academic fields. The February 1998 *Women's Review of Books* noted the increasing number of MA and Ph.D. programs in Women's Studies, and the creation of tenured positions.¹
- "Has the success of its students as its highest priority, emphasizing student learning, and encompassing...employment, and civic engagement in a culturally diverse society and in globally interdependent communities." Women's Studies courses are taught in a highly collaborative manner, aimed at empowering students and ensuring their success. Critical competencies identified by leaders in business, industry, and government include personal responsibility, respect for people different from oneself, critical thinking skills, and the ability to work in groups.² Women's Studies courses teach these skills. They also pay particular attention to cultural diversity and the world-wide condition of women. WMS 401 and some sections of WMS 261 include the option of service to the community.
- "Is committed to advancing teaching, scholarship, creative endeavors, and service to the College community and the greater society...."

Teaching: Feminist pedagogy is cooperative, collaborative, and student-centered, emphasizing participatory learning, validation of personal experience, encouragement of social understanding and activism, and development of critical thinking.³

Scholarship: The Director of Women's Studies, one Women's Studies adjunct faculty member, and the majority of the faculty currently

¹ Claire G. Moses, "Passing on the Torch," *Women's Review of Books* XV:5 (Feb. 1998), 34-35.

² Lion F. Gardiner, "Redesigning Higher Education: Producing Dramatic Gains in Student Learning," ASHE-ERIC Higher Education Report 7, 1994; US Department of Education, *National Goals for Education* (Washington, DC: US Government, 1990).

³ Frances L. Hoffmann and Jayne E. Stake, "Feminist Pedagogy in Theory and Practice: An Empirical Investigation," *NWSA Journal* 10:1 (Spring 1998), 80.

teaching Women's Studies cross-listed courses, are engaged in and have published scholarship on women.

Service: The Director and members of the Women's Studies Board also sit on the Women's Center Advisory Board and the Campus Safety Committee, and are active in the Faculty Senate. The Women's Studies program co-sponsors activities for Women's History Month, and supports student-run activities such as the Take Back the Night March and the Clothesline Project.

The proposed program will go through the process for approval mapped out in the 1998 Strategic Plan. It will be assessed in the next Middle States Review. There are no formal accreditation programs for Women's Studies.

The teaching methods employed in Women's Studies classes are widely accepted as increasing learning productivity, and we believe that offering a major will enhance the quality of Brockport's degree offerings by building on Brockport's unique emphasis within the SUNY system on scholarship on women.⁴

III. System Need and Effect

1. SIMILAR PROGRAMS

Within Brockport's chief service area, the University of Rochester, Cornell University, and the University of Buffalo have Women's Studies majors. None have the same student profile as Brockport. In Western New York, Alfred University, Binghamton University, SUNY College at Buffalo, Canisius College, SUNY College at Cortland, SUNY College at Fredonia, SUNY College at Geneseo, Hartwick College, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Nazareth College, SUNY College at Oneonta, SUNY College at Oswego, Syracuse University, and Wells College have undergraduate minors.

The following SUNY campuses have Women's Studies majors: Albany, Buffalo (University), Empire State, New Paltz, Tompkins Cortland Community College. Oswego has a proposal for a major being reviewed in Albany. Plattsburgh, Potsdam, and Purchase have either completed proposals for majors or are in the process of doing so.

2. APPROPRIATE CONSULTATION WITH SUNY CAMPUSES

(To be completed when we have sent out Program Announcement.)

⁴"The Charge to the State University of New York," *Rethinking SUNY*, (1995), 12.

3. NEED FOR PROGRAM

- The major will serve Brockport students who wish to concentrate in scholarship on women. Women's Studies classes attract more than 150 students a semester (not including cross-listed classes), and are always over-subscribed. The number of Women's Studies minors has grown by more than 80% over the past four years; currently there are 2 CLAMS and 37 declared minors, including 4 men. This suggests considerable interest in Women's Studies.
- The University of Rochester and the University of Buffalo typically have about 20 Women's Studies majors at any one time.
- The major will be the only one offered in Western New York outside the major universities. It therefore provides a unique opportunity for students in state higher education in Western New York, an area nationally recognized for its significance in Women's History. A Brockport committee is working to get Brockport recognized as a site on the proposed National Women's History Trail.
- Women's Studies focuses on analyzing and theorizing women's experience across the disciplines. It has become a recognized and permanent part of higher education, with 5 PhD programs.
- Women's studies classes attract students widely ranging in age, race, ethnicity, and interests, who interact with each other in collaborative learning situations. This fosters understanding and civility, and prepares them for a future in which New York State's population will be increasingly diverse.

The level of need was established by surveying other Women's Studies programs through the University of Maryland Women's Studies Web site, by counting and surveying current Women's Studies minors at Brockport, by exit interviews with graduating Women's Studies minors, and by talking to the Directors of Women's Studies at the Universities of Buffalo and Rochester.

4. ENROLLMENT ESTIMATES

The enrollment estimates were determined by:

- surveying all students enrolled in Fall 1998 Women's Studies courses not cross-listed with other disciplines. Of 141 students surveyed, 39 (28%) expressed interest in a Women's Studies major. 16 were interested only in a double major, 14 in a major by itself, and 9 in both. At least one quarter of those surveyed were men. These statistics suggest our estimates of demand are conservative.
- exit interviews with graduating Women's Studies minors. Of 10 students interviewed over the last year, all said they would have pursued a Women's Studies major if one had been available.

We expect the impact on other major programs to be minimal, since many Women's Studies majors would pursue a double major. As the program would be the most accessible and affordable Women's Studies program in the Greater Rochester area, we hope to attract some students who would not otherwise come to Brockport.

5. The program is not designed to prepare graduates for immediate employment, but students in Women's Studies classes learn skills employers value. See II.2.

6. No required external agency placements.

7. **ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS**

Brockport has articulation agreements with all community colleges in its main service area. These colleges have no Associate degrees in Women's Studies and no courses that would transfer as core courses for the Women's Studies major. All of the three main colleges from which our students transfer have at least one course that would transfer as an elective (Monroe Community College: 1; Finger Lakes Community College: 1; Genesee Community College: 3).

IV. Program Access and Support

1. **CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION OF STUDENTS**

No specific criteria. Students must get at least a C in required courses. Women's Studies minors include a greater proportion of minorities than in the College at large, and currently include 9 non-traditional students.

2. **ADVISEMENT AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT**

All advisement will be done by the Director or Women's Studies, at least initially. Feminist pedagogy includes extensive feedback and continuous assessment, which helps most students to succeed in Women's Studies courses.

V. Course of Study

1. **COURSE OF STUDY**

The current minor is 18 hours, with 3 core courses (101, 301, 401) and 3 electives. The new 36 hour major would have a 21 hour core and 15 hours of electives. All courses are 3 credit hours.

WMS 101 Intro to Women's Studies (every semester)

WMS 261 Sex and Culture (every semester)

WMS 271 Gender, Race and Class (fall semester). New course—
syllabus attached.

WMS 301 Feminist Theory (spring semester)

Course in women's history (One of WMS 323/328/359/429/495) (at least
one offered every semester)

WMS 401 Senior Seminar (spring semester)

WMS 411 Feminist Research Methods (fall semester). New course—
syllabus attached.

5 electives:

Either at least 9 hours from one of the following concentrations:
Humanities; Social Sciences; Behavioral and Physical Sciences

Or Interdisciplinary Studies: 6 hours in one of the above plus at least 1
course in each of the other concentrations (at least 10 electives offered
every semester).

We are seeking to cross-list WMS 271 with Sociology and African and
Afro-American Studies. The Sociology department is searching for
someone qualified to teach gender issues. The Director of Women's
Studies will teach WMS 411.

2. FACULTY

Brief vitae of faculty teaching core courses appended.

The Director of Women's Studies, Dr. Jennifer Lloyd, teaches WMS 101
and WMS 401, and will teach WMS 411.

Dr. Evelyn Newlyn (English) teaches WMS 301, and a WMS elective.

WMS 261 is currently taught by adjuncts. The program needs a full-
time instructor with a terminal degree in the social sciences or related
disciplines and a Postgraduate Certificate in Women's Studies and/or
experience in the field to teach multiple sections of WMS 101 and WMS
261. The major can be implemented without this position but it would
be difficult to sustain a quality program while relying on adjunct
instruction.

WMS 271 will be taught out of the Sociology department.

3. LIBRARY RESOURCES

The Women's Studies program already has a library budget, and the
holdings are adequate to support a major program.

4. No required internship or fieldwork experience.

5. CREDIT FOR LIFE EXPERIENCE

Women's Studies includes the validation of life experience as
knowledge. The Director will evaluate all requests for credit for life

experience according to criteria drawn up by the Women's Studies board.

VI. Program Quality Assurance

ASSESSMENT

The Women's Studies already has a comprehensive assessment program (appended). It will be revised to include the expanded student learning objectives of the major. Assessment is on-going, and results are included in the program's annual report. The program will be subject to campus review as laid out in the Strategic Plan.

VII. Costs and Resources

See form. The costs are an estimate for adding a full-time faculty member on term appointment, and for the Director becoming full time in Women's Studies (need for replacement adjunct for one course a semester). The Women's Studies program currently has \$16,000 budgeted for adjuncts which would be reallocated. The proposal could be implemented without these costs (see V.2), but this would not be desirable..

VIII. Governance Approval

The Women's Studies Advisory Board approved this proposal on March 11, 1998.

The Dean of Letters and Sciences approved this proposal on March 12, 1998.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

PROJECTED EXPENDITURES FOR PROPOSED PROGRAM

Expenditures	1st Year Academic Year $\frac{1}{2001}$	5th Year Academic Year 1
<i>Personnel</i> ²		
Internal reallocation ³	16,000	
New funds ⁴	25,000	
Total	41,000	
<i>Equipment</i> ⁵		
Internal reallocation ³		
New funds ⁴		
Total		
<i>Library Acquisitions</i>		
Internal reallocation ³		
New funds ⁴		
Total		
<i>Remaining OTPS</i>		
Internal reallocation ³		
New funds ⁴		
Total		
<i>Capital Expenditures</i> ⁶		
Internal reallocation ³		
New funds ⁴		
Total		
Grand Total	41,000	

¹ Specify the academic year.² Include fringe benefits.³ Internal reallocation means that campus resources will be moved or redeployed from a current effort to support the new program.⁴ New funds means expenditures engendered specifically by the proposed program that the institution would meet by other sources.⁵ Include here equipment which is not a capital expenditure.⁶ Include here a new facility, or renovation or renewal of an existing building.

Office of Academic Programs
 SUNY System Administration
 May 1996