

**Academic Programs Committee Subcommittee-B
Resolution on the Program in Women's Studies
Proposal to Change its Name to "Program in Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies"**

Overview: The Program in Women's Studies promotes interdisciplinary scholarship, courses, degrees, and activities that engage the relation of gender to race, sexuality, and other axes of differentiation and challenge forms of knowledge that perpetuate subordination. Founded in 1983, the Program is a now well-established unit comprised of faculty across campus as well as a Director and four tenure/tenure track faculty. The Program proposes to change its name to the "Program in Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies" in order to reflect the evolution of the field in the past thirty years and to accurately describe the course offerings and activities of the unit. The APC received the proposal from Priscilla Wald, Margaret Taylor Smith Director of Women's Studies under the cover letter from Linda Burton, Dean of Social Sciences, addressed to Provost Sally Kornbluth, Vice Provost Keith Whitfield, and Trinity Dean Valerie Ashby. The APC Subcommittee-B met with Priscilla Wald on January 27 with all the aforementioned in attendance.

Summary of APC Discussion: Topics raised and brought to closure: The APC expressed strong understanding and support for the rationale behind the name change. The APC sent only two questions to Priscilla Wald in advance concerning (1) any downside of the name change, and (2) impact of the name change on other units. The discussion in the meeting also raised issues concerning the relation between the Program and related projects and the details of the Program's Minors. Details follow:

In response to potential downsides, Priscilla discussed the possible issue that the word "feminism," as a hot-button term, could deter students from the Program. She elaborated, however, that most students (men and women) now embrace the term ("of course, I am a feminist). Moreover, feminism should be understood a scholarly method and thus the inclusion of the word "feminism" is a signal of the intellectual content of the Program.

In response to the impact on other units, Priscilla responded that all constituents are on board with the name change and that if anything, the name change would clarify the Program's content and therefore attract further and additional collaboration with other units.

The APC and Priscilla had a broad ranging discussion concerning the place of race in the Program and the intersection(ality) of Program with related intellectual projects such as critical race theory. Priscilla explained that race is an integral to the Program and that indeed one can imagine in many years to come a merging of units which have started and evolved along their particular trajectories, as one can imagine a merging of disciplines in the university. The name change is then one part of this evolution.

Finally, the APC asked for clarification of the two Minors that will be offered. Priscilla explained that the Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies Minor would be a mini-version of the Program as a whole, while the Sexuality Studies Minor would focus on sexuality.

Resolution: The APC Subcommittee-B supports the proposed change in the name of the Program in Women's Studies to the "Program in Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies."

Vote on February 2, 2015: 13 for and 0 against and 0 abstained