

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Establishment of the Graduate Certificate in Women StudiesRECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents grant authority to the graduate faculty in the Department of Women Studies to offer the Graduate Certificate in Women Studies, effective Autumn Quarter, 2009. The certificate program will have provisional status with a review to be scheduled in the 2014-2015 academic year. At such time that continuing status is granted, a ten-year review cycle would begin.

BACKGROUND

In April 2009, the Graduate School received a proposal from the graduate faculty in the Department of Women Studies requesting authority to offer the Graduate Certificate in Women Studies. Implementation is planned for Autumn Quarter 2009, with the program anticipating between four and seven enrolled students at any given time.

The Women Studies Graduate Certificate Program will allow students outside of the Department of Women Studies to obtain a foundational understanding of feminist theory and analysis and give students the opportunity to integrate gender, women's, and feminist studies in their respective disciplines.

The Department of Women Studies has offered a similar certificate informally for the past seventeen years. Women Studies began the certificate in 1992, before it had departmental status, in order to recognize substantial women studies coursework completed by students matriculating through other graduate programs at the University of Washington. Since that time the informal certificate has served students from graduate and professional programs who want to pursue and document their advanced knowledge and skills in the interdisciplinary field of women's studies. Demand has been consistent, with 83 students completing the informal certificate since 1992. The department anticipates equal demand for the program after it has been formalized.

The Graduate School Council met on May 21, 2009, to discuss the proposal for the Graduate Certificate in Women Studies. The Council recommended unanimously that the proposal should be approved and that it be forwarded to the Board of Regents for final approval. The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School concurred with the Council's recommendation.

The College of Arts & Sciences Dean's Office and the Provost have reviewed and approved the recommendation. Approval by the Higher Education Coordinating Board is not required for the Graduate Certificate proposal.