



Office of the Dean

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To: W. Randy Smith, Vice Provost for Academic Programs

From: Cheryl Achterberg, Dean, College of Education and Human Ecology

RE: Support of proposal for Sexuality Studies Major

Date: January 19, 2010

On behalf of the College of Education and Human Ecology (EHE), I am pleased to support the proposal to establish an undergraduate interdisciplinary major in Sexuality Studies. The Sexuality Studies minor, which started in 2002, has grown rapidly to the second most popular minor on campus. This alone offers some indication of the degree to which students find this field to be important. More significantly, though, as the proposal argues, the study of sexuality is integral to the study of the human sciences, including several areas represented within our college: Physical Activity and Educational Services, Human Development and Family Science, Educational Policy and Leadership, and Teaching and Learning. Already, some of our faculty members in these areas have played vital roles in teaching courses, engaging in research, and otherwise supporting the Sexuality Studies minor. We expect this level of EHE faculty support will continue should this proposal for a major be approved.

EHE will continue to offer a range of courses that not only support the Sexuality Studies minor, but also that will be part of the proposed interdisciplinary major. Faculty representatives from EHE will continue to serve on the Sexuality Studies Oversight Committee, which is the advisory/administrative body for the program. I expect that no new facilities or equipment will be needed for this proposed major. In short, EHE has played an important role in supporting the Sexuality Studies minor, a role that will continue with the proposed major.

Finally, because of the strong faculty, university, and community resources already available to the Sexuality Studies program, the creation of an undergraduate major almost certainly will allow Ohio State to become a national leader in this rapidly developing field. It is fitting and gratifying that EHE is a partner in this proposal.