



Associate Professor Alison Crocetta
Chair, Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

Re: Approval of revisions to the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies major
(WGSST-BA) and minor (WGSST-MN)

Dear Alison,

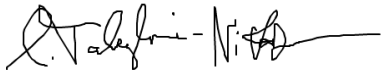
On September 12, 2019, The Arts and Humanities Panel 1 of the ASCC reviewed proposed revisions to Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies major and minor. Overall, the goal of the proposed revisions is to provide a more accurate representation of the department's faculty expertise and the multi-disciplinary field of feminist studies, and to correct problems with the current rubric which encourages a division between the humanities and the social sciences.

The revisions to the curriculum include eliminating the four concentration areas that are the center of the current curriculum, in which students choose one area to build a specialization and instead requiring students to take three core courses in addition to the pre-requisite introductory course. In so doing, the new curriculum emphasizes the connections and alliances among their topics and fields of knowledge. The three required core-courses focus on the competencies that students in the major are expected to demonstrate: the ability to contextualize issues within the history of feminism (WGSST 2550); the ability to recognize, evaluate, and utilize feminism methodology (WGSST 3575, a new course); and the ability to apply these skills in a capstone research project (WGSST 4575). The new course feminism methodology (WGSST 3575) was developed and added to one of the three core courses to address the gap between theory and practice, and to introduce students to thinking critically and analytically about feminism approaches. The new requirement of two electives that focus on women of color and transnational feminism reflects current scholarship in feminist studies and their faculty and curricular strength in transnational feminism. Moreover, the new curriculum allows students to take more electives at the 4000-level, thereby increasing opportunities for research and advanced inquiry.

In addition to the curriculum changes, WGSS worked extensively with the University Center for the Advancement of Teaching and revised their departmental learning goals and outcomes associated with their major and minor programs. The panel agreed that the

proposed revisions address faculty strengths and offer better options for students. The panel was also impressed with the work that WGSS had put into the major assessment plan, but also wondered if the plan might be challenging to implement.. The revisions to the major and minor were unanimously approved with one feedback regarding the program's transition plan which will be asked at the ASCC meeting on September 20, 2019. We now advance the proposal to the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee with a motion to approve.

Carmen Taleghani-Nikazm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Taleghani-Nikazm', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chair, ASCC Arts and Humanities Panel 1