



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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DATE: April 25, 2011 for May 16, 2011

AGENDA ITEM: 4

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Faculty of Arts and Science proposal for a new PhD in Women and Gender Studies

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs has the authority to recommend proposals for new degree programs to Academic Board for approval.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The MA in Women and Gender Studies was approved by Governing Council, February 9, 2006.

HIGHLIGHTS:

This is a proposal for a new four-year full-time Ph.D. degree program in Women and Gender Studies that is being brought forward by Arts and Science. The proposed program will build on the existing MA offered by the Women and Gender Studies Institute.

The objective of the program is to prepare students for a career in teaching and/or research, or as policy analysts, activists or research-based artists. The proponents suggest that demand for the programs, which will accept five students a year, will be strong and steady building on a robust academic job market in this field; the importance of feminist analysis to a range of different forms of cultural production, including literature, drama, dance, music, many forms of art and architecture and other forms of performance; and increasing incorporation of gender and feminist insights into a variety of public policy arenas, including NGOs, human rights organizations, development agencies, grassroots groups, and different levels of government from the municipal to the international. The proposal responds to the recommendation of the 2008 review of the Institute and its programs that the U of T consolidate its position of leadership in women and gender studies through developing a PhD program.

The development of the program involved all WGSJ faculty and students, affiliate faculty, and departments participating in the Institute's collaborative program. The proponents consulted directly with the Chairs of all cross-appointed faculty, affected graduate programs, the Deans of these Faculties, and the Principal of New College where the Institute and its programs are located, securing letters of support from all.

The program received an extremely positive external appraisal from Professor Audrey Kobayashi, Department of Geography, Queen's University, and Professor Maureen McNeil, Centre for Gender and Women's Studies, Lancaster University, United Kingdom on April 5, 2011. The final proposal was approved by the Tri-Campus Graduate Council on April 20, 2011.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS: There are no new/additional financial resources at the University-level required to implement the proposed new program.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be it recommended to the Academic Board:

THAT the new PhD in Women and Gender Studies be approved effective the academic year 2012-2013.