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Office of the President
June 9, 2009

Members, Board of Trustees:

CREATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the creation of the Department of Gender and Women's Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences, effective July 1.

Background: The original 2006 Five-Year Plan of the Women's Studies Program describes the intellectual commitments, accomplishments, and future promise of Gender and Women's studies at the University of Kentucky. The plan included transitioning from a program to a department, and a name change from the "Women's Studies Program" to the "Department of Gender and Women's Studies," a change that signals our understanding of gender as a construct that permeates human experience, thought, and history.

Understanding women's experiences, resources, strategies, and contributions to society globally is central to the mission of the Gender and Women's Studies program (GWS). GWS also recognizes that men's lives are gendered and that gender relations occur simultaneously with other hierarchical social relations and inequalities of power including those based on ability, age, class, ethnicity, family composition, race, region, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and the inequitable distribution of resources in and among countries and groups globally. GWS has always supported an integrative, multidisciplinary, global, and theoretically diverse approach to the study of gender. As a department, Gender and Women's Studies will be able to expand upon its commitment to fostering this vision through a broad and challenging interdisciplinary curricula, a research-supportive environment for faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, and service to the college, university and Commonwealth.

The proposal for the new department has been approved by the faculty in the Gender and Women's Studies Program and the College of Arts and Sciences Executive Committee; reviewed and recommended by the Senate Committee on Academic Organization and Structure and the Senate Council; and recommended by the University Senate. The provost of the university supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____