September 13, 2016

To: Dylan Rodriguez, Academic Senate Chair

From: Jane Ward, Director, LGBIT Studies Program

RE: Transfer of LGBIT Studies Minor to Gender and Sexuality Studies

On March 9, 2016, the faculty of the LGBIT Studies Program voted unanimously to change the “Minor in LGBIT Studies” to the “Minor in Queer Studies” and to transfer the minor to the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies. This transfer will effectively disestablish the LGBIT Studies Program (see attached memo of support from Professor Tamara Ho, Director of Interdisciplinary Programs). The “Minor in Queer Studies” will retain its current interdisciplinary curriculum but will be housed within the Gender and Sexuality Studies Department as the Department’s second minor. The Department’s current minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies will be renamed “Minor in Feminist Studies” and GSST will now offer two minors representing distinct intellectual tracks: feminist studies and queer studies.

Justification: The proposed changes address longstanding administrative obstacles facing the LGBIT Studies Program, including the lack of staffing resources and the difficulty of securing release time from home departments for faculty to teach queer studies courses. In recent years, the Gender and Sexuality Studies Department has become a logical home for the LGBIT Studies minor. Formerly Women’s Studies, the department changed its name in 2014 to Gender and Sexuality Studies in order to highlight its focus on the study of sexuality, with queer studies as a central area of inquiry. The Department has also grown to include several faculty members who teach courses in queer and transgender studies (Alicia Arrizon, Tamara Ho, Jane Ward, Eric Stanley, Amalia Cabezas, and Katja Guenther). Given these developments, LGBIT Studies faculty agree that locating the Queer Studies Minor within the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies will not only provide the minor with a more centralized institutional home, but will also strengthen GSST’s efforts to expand its queer studies curriculum.
September 20, 2016

To: Dylan Rodriguez, Academic Senate Chair

From: Tamara C. Ho, Director, Interdisciplinary Programs

RE: Memo in Support of Transfer -- LGBIT Studies Minor to Gender and Sexuality Studies

This memo supports the transfer of the LGBIT minor to the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies from Interdisciplinary Programs. Because the LGBIT Studies Program faculty voted unanimously to change the “Minor in LGBIT Studies” to the “Minor in Queer Studies” on March 9, 2016, it is logical to disestablish the LGBIT Studies Program as an Interdisciplinary Program. Pending approval of this transfer and starting in AY 2016-17, the “Minor in Queer Studies” will be housed within the Gender and Sexuality Studies Department as the Department’s second minor and will retain its current interdisciplinary curriculum.

During AY 2015-16, this decision was discussed at length by faculty in the various units (LGBIT Studies, GSST department, and Interdisciplinary Programs), and all were in agreement that this transfer would stabilize the LGBIT/Queer Studies curriculum and student advising in positive ways. This transfer will provide the Queer Studies minor with an institutional home that will allow undergraduate students better chances for success and timely graduation; it will also enable the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies to strengthen its growing queer studies curriculum.
March 01, 2017

TO: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair
    Academic Senate

FROM: Kate Sweeny, Acting Chair
      CHASS Executive Committee

RE: Review of the Transfer of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Intersexual, and Transgender Studies (LGBT) Minor to the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies, the Name Change of the LGBT Studies Minor to Queer Studies Minor, and the Name Change of Gender and Sexuality Studies Minor to Feminist Studies Minor

The CHASS Executive Committee discussed the request for the transfer of the LGBT Studies minor housed in Interdisciplinary Studies Programs to the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies, the name change of the LGBT Studies Minor to Queer Studies Minor, and the name change of the Gender and Sexuality Studies Minor to Feminist Studies Minor at the regular meeting on March 01, 2017. There were no objections and the committee approved all the components of the proposal pending the CHASS Dean’s support memo.

Kate Sweeny, Acting Chair
CHASS Executive Committee
March 9, 2017

To: CHASS Executive Committee

From: Milagros Peña, Dean

Re: LGBIT Studies Minor Move to Gender and Sexuality Studies

This memo serves to convey my support and agreement in changing the “Minor in LGBIT Studies” name to “Minor in Queer Studies”. In addition, I agree with the unanimous vote of the faculty of the LGBIT Studies Program, and with support of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program Director, to move this minor from Interdisciplinary Programs to the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies, where it will become the Department’s second minor. I support changing Department’s current minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies to “Minor in Feminist Studies,” with the understanding that GSST will now offer two minors: feminist studies and queer studies.

Milagros Peña
August 4, 2017
To: Riverside Division of the UC Academic Senate
Through: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair
From: Cynthia Larive, Provost and EVC

Request for changes to the LGBIT Studies Program

Dear Dylan,

I am forwarding a proposal from CHASS regarding the LGBIT Studies interdisciplinary minor. This request has three components.

1) Change the name of the minor from LGBIT Studies to Queer Studies
2) Disestablish LGBIT Studies as an interdisciplinary program
3) Move the Queer Studies minor into the Gender and Sexuality Studies Department, retaining its current interdisciplinary curriculum.

This proposal has been developed and approved by the program faculty, supported by the Director of Interdisciplinary Programs, endorsed by CHASS Dean Milagros Peña, and approved by the CHASS executive committee. I am pleased to add my support for these changes as a better choice for UCR’s students and faculty and hope that the Queer Studies minor will flourish in its new departmental home.
To be adopted:

Proposed Changes to minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies Minor to Feminist Studies Minor

Present:

The minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies consists of six courses (at least 24 units) distributed as follows:

1. Lower-division requirements (two courses [at least 8 units])
   a) GSST 001 or GSST 001H or GSST 001S
   b) One GSST lower-division course

2. Upper-division requirements (four courses [at least 16 units])
   a) GSST 100
   b) Three upper-division GSST courses.

Proposed:

Feminist Studies Minor

The minor in Feminist Studies consists of six courses (at least 24 units) distributed as follows:

[No Change]

[No Change]

Justification:

Include Justifications for EVERY change/ addition/ deletion that is made.

1. The Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies is requesting the change from the minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies to Feminist Studies Minor. The department is planning on bringing the former: LGBIT Studies minor under the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies. To ensure there is a distinction the minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies will not be named as Feminist Studies. While LGBIT minor will be changed to Queer Studies. Due to the lack of staffing resources of the difficulty of securing release time from home departments for faculty to teach queer studies courses, it is logical home for the minor to move to Gender and Sexuality Studies. With the minor of the LGBIT minor will result in the development and renaming of the minors to best suit the changes.

Approved by the faculty of the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies
March 9, 2016

Approved by the Department Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies
September 20, 2016

Approved by the Executive Committee of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences:

Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy:
To be adopted:

Proposed Changes to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Intersex, and Transgender Studies Minor to Queer Studies

The program reflects current critical, theoretical, and methodological developments across several disciplines that focus on lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Intersex, and Transgender Studies are by nature interdisciplinary, and this program is meant to encourage new cross-disciplinary research in the field for interested students in the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. The curriculum addresses such issues as sexual identity and orientation; gay, lesbian, and bisexual representation; gay, lesbian, and bisexual perspectives on the arts; rerearizations of gender; sexuality and cultural diversity; intersections of sexualities and ethnic identities.

Requirements for the minor (24 units)

1. Lower-division requirements (4 units) chosen from LGBS 001 or GSST 001

2. Upper-division requirements (5 courses [at least 20 units]) chosen from the approved list of courses:

   a) Humanities: at least one of the five from ENGL 122 (E-Z)/LGBS 122 (E-Z), ENGL 143 (E-Z)/LGBS 143 (E-Z)/MCS 143 (E-Z), LGBS 105, LGBS 139/GSST 139

   b) Fine Arts: at least one of the five from DNCE 135, ENGL 143 (E-Z)/LGBS 143 (E-Z)/MCS 143 (E-Z), LGBS 153/MUS 153

   c) Social Sciences: at least one of the five from ANTH 145/GSST 103, ETST 175/GSST 175, LGBS 128/GSST 128, LGBS 133/GSST 133, LGBS 135/GSST 135, LGBS 137/GSST 137

   The minor reflects current critical, theoretical, and methodological developments across several disciplines that focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual, intersex, and transgender issues. The field of queer studies is by nature interdisciplinary, and this minor is meant to encourage new cross-disciplinary research in the field for interested students in the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. The curriculum addresses such issues as sexual identity and orientation; queer and trans representation; queer and trans perspectives on the arts; rerearizations of gender; sexuality and cultural diversity; intersections of sexualities and ethnic identities.
Students may petition to have a course not on the approved list counted towards the five upper division requirements provided they can demonstrate that LGBIT issues play a significant role in the course and that they will focus their own work for the course (amounting to 30% of the final grade) on an LGBIT topic.

Students may use 4 units of LGBS 190 and up to 8 units of LGBS 193 to count towards the five upper division requirements.

**Note** Students may satisfy an upper-division requirement by completing 4 units of LGBS 198-I (Internship).

**Justification:**

1. Edits were made to the description of the minor to be more inclusive of terms. Also, since the department wishes to change the name of the minor for inclusivity the minor is being changed to queer studies.

2. The minor is also being relocated from a minor under Interdisciplinary Programs to one of the minors under Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies. Changing the name from minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies to two separate minors: Feminist Studies and Queer Studies. The decision behind the change is the department's long standing administrative goal to move the LGBIT Studies Program under the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies. Due to the lack of staffing resources of the difficulty of securing release time from home departments for faculty to teach queer studies courses, it is logical home for the minor to move to Gender and Sexuality Studies. With the minor of the LGBIT minor will result in the development and renaming of the minors to best suit the changes.

3. 2 a.) GSST 139/ LGBS 139 was changed to ensure that cross-listed courses are being listed in alphabetical order.

4. 2 b.) some of the cross-listed courses were updated to ensure that cross-listed courses are being listed in alphabetical order.

Approved by the faculty of the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies: March 9, 2016
Approved by the Department Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies: September 20, 2016
Approved by the Executive Committee of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences:
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy:
PREAMBLE

The ultimate decision to recommend the transfer, consolidation, disestablishment, or discontinuance of an academic program resides with the Academic Senate of the campus and that of a unit resides with the Chancellor. In the context of these procedures, a program is defined as a course of study leading to a degree, and a unit is a school, college, department, or division within a department, school, or college. If such a decision is to be judicious it can be made only after consultation with, and upon the advice of, the faculty, the students, the Chairperson of the program and/or the Chairperson of the academic unit in which the program is housed, the Executive Committee and the Dean of the college or school that administers the program, and the appropriate committees of the Academic Senate. If transfer, consolidation, disestablishment, or discontinuance of a graduate program or unit is under consideration, the Graduate Dean, in addition to the foregoing agencies, should be consulted.

PROCEDURES FOR TRANSFER, CONSOLIDATION, DISESTABLISHMENT, OR DISCONTINUANCE OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM, OR UNIT

Regardless of the origin of the initial recommendation for transfer, consolidation, disestablishment, or discontinuance, the Senate feels that deliberations by, and consultation with, the abovementioned agencies of the campus must occur prior to the final decision by the Academic Senate in the case of programs or by the Chancellor in the case of units. To assure that such consultation has taken place, the following procedures are established.

Some units may administer more than one program (e.g., a graduate and an undergraduate program in one department; a program in a specific language and the program in Comparative Literature in the Department of Literatures and Languages). On the other hand, some programs may be the joint responsibility of more than one unit, e.g., a program under the responsibility of an interdepartmental committee.

A proposal for the transfer, consolidation, disestablishment, or discontinuance of a program or unit may originate with a department, program or group; with the Dean of the college or school to which the department, program or group is administratively attached; or with the Committee on Educational Policy or the Graduate Council. A proposal for the transfer, consolidation, disestablishment, or discontinuance of a unit may also originate with an appropriate vice Chancellor. If the unit or program being considered for transfer, consolidation or termination is unique in the University, or if its closure would have systemwide or intersegmental effects, the President shall be consulted early in the process.
2 If the request for transfer, consolidation, disestablishment, or discontinuance originates with a department, program, or group, it shall be forwarded to the Committee on Educational Policy, the Graduate Council, and the Committees on Academic Personnel and Planning and Budget.

3 If the proposal for transfer, consolidation, disestablishment, or discontinuance originates with the Dean of the college or school or with a vice Chancellor, it shall be forwarded to the Committee on Educational Policy, the Graduate Council, and the Committees on Academic Personnel and Planning and Budget, but only after consultation with the department, program or group under consideration and with the Executive Committee of the college or school. The Executive Committee may refer the recommendation to the Faculty of the College or school, for its advice, if the committee deems it necessary or advisable. Responses of these agencies of the school or college shall be appended to the Dean's or vice Chancellor's letter of transmission to committees of the Academic Senate.

4 If the proposal for transfer, consolidation, disestablishment, or discontinuance arises with the Committee on Educational Policy or the Graduate Council, the department, program or group, the Dean of the college or school, and the Executive Committee of the college or school must all be given the opportunity to review the proposal, make comments, and present relevant materials before any final recommendation is made by the Committee on Educational Policy or the Graduate Council.

5 Senate committees reviewing the proposal shall consult, early in the deliberations, with the Chairperson, Faculty and students of the program or unit under review, and with the Dean and the Executive Committee of the college or school to which the program or unit is administratively attached, if deemed necessary. Consultation shall also take place with Faculty and students of related departments, programs or groups that would be affected by a decision to transfer, consolidate, disestablish, or discontinue. The recommendations of the Committees on Academic Personnel and Planning and Budget shall be sought. Consultation between the Committee on Educational Policy, the Graduate Council and the Committees on Academic Personnel and Planning and Budget shall be maintained throughout the review process.

a) A Special Review Committee, normally consisting of individuals from other campuses or institutions, will be appointed by the Advisory Committee of the Academic Senate in consultation with the Administration, the Executive Committee of the college or school and the program/department concerned. The charge to the Committee shall be developed by the Dean and the Executive Vice Chancellor and shall be subject to the review of the Advisory Committee. A review will be promptly carried out by the Special Review Committee.

b) The report of the Special Review Committee, together with the file and other documentation will be assessed by the Committees on Educational Policy, Academic Personnel, and Planning and Budget, and by the Graduate Council in cases of review of graduate programs. This assessment is to be carried out in consultation with the Chancellor, the Executive Vice Chancellor, the President (if required by Systemwide procedures) and other interested individuals and groups, including the program/department being reviewed.
c) The Executive Vice Chancellor shall submit the report of the Special Committee to his/her Student Committee on Budget and Academic Planning for its review and recommendation.

d) The results of Senate committee deliberations will be transmitted to the Advisory Committee which shall submit its recommendations to the Division for action and the Executive Vice Chancellor shall provide as information to the item any comments from the Student Committee on Budget and Academic Planning.

6 Faculty shall retain the right, at all times during deliberations, to advise the Executive Committee of their college or school, or the committees of the Academic Senate, on the proposal.

7 In all cases the deliberations of the Committee on Educational Policy and/or the Graduate Council shall be in consultation with the Chancellor and the appropriate vice Chancellors.*

* Under the present administrative organization of the campus, the appropriate vice Chancellors would be the Executive Vice Chancellor. The proposed wording is intentionally non-specific to allow for possible future changes in designated titles.

8 If, after the foregoing review, a recommendation for transfer, consolidation, disestablishment, or discontinuance is reached by the Committee on Educational Policy, for undergraduate programs or units, or by the Graduate Council, for graduate programs or units, or for an entire program, the Advisory Committee shall present the recommendation to the Division for its action. Concurrence or dissent, and the arguments therefore, shall be presented at the same time, by the Graduate Council, for undergraduate programs or units, and by the Committee on Educational Policy, for graduate programs or units.**

**The Committee on Educational Policy should have the opportunity to comment on the transfer, consolidation, disestablishment, or discontinuance of graduate programs or units, and the Graduate Council on the transfer, consolidation, disestablishment, or discontinuance of undergraduate programs or units.

9 After completion of the foregoing procedures, the results of the consultation on units and the results of any final decisions on programs shall be reported by the Division to the Chancellor. If the decision is to transfer, consolidate, disestablish, or discontinue a program, it shall be reported to the Systemwide Administration as prescribed universitywide. If the decision is to recommend the transfer, consolidation, disestablishment, or discontinuance of a unit or the disestablishment of a degree, the recommendation shall be made to the Systemwide Administration as prescribed universitywide.

10 No programs or units shall be transferred, consolidated, disestablished, or discontinued until the enrolled students can be accommodated in a fashion that will assure completion of the degree. Arrangements shall be made for the orderly and appropriate accommodations of academic and staff employees whose positions are affected by a decision to disestablish or discontinue or to transfer to another campus or to combine with another program or programs on a different campus. These arrangements shall be in accordance with existing personnel policies.
to the extent that they are adequate for each specific decision. Where existing policies are not adequate, supplemental policies shall be developed by the Systemwide Administration through appropriate consultation with the Academic Senate. Until such policies are adopted, historical precedent and established practice shall supplement existing personnel policies. Under no circumstances shall the transfer, consolidation, disestablishment or discontinuance of a program or unit result in the termination of a tenured Faculty member from the University of California.

11 The campus will report any transfers, consolidations and discontinuances annually on its Academic Program Inventory.

5/3/89: Editorial corrections were made with reference to Committee on Budget and Interdepartmental Relations and vice Chancellor designations by the Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction.
April 24, 2017 -- REVISED

To: Dylan Rodriguez, Academic Senate Chair

From: Jane Ward, Director, LGBIT Studies Program

RE: Transfer of LGBIT Studies Minor to Gender and Sexuality Studies

On March 9, 2016, the faculty of the LGBIT Studies Program voted unanimously to change the “Minor in LGBIT Studies” to the “Minor in Queer Studies” and to transfer the minor to the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies. This transfer will effectively disestablish the LGBIT Studies Program (see attached memo of support from Professor Tamara Ho, Director of Interdisciplinary Programs). The “Minor in Queer Studies” will retain its current interdisciplinary curriculum but will be housed within the Gender and Sexuality Studies Department as the Department’s second minor. The Department’s current minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies will be renamed “Minor in Feminist Studies” and GSST will now offer two minors representing distinct intellectual tracks: feminist studies and queer studies.

Justification: In recent years, the Gender and Sexuality Studies Department has become the logical home for the LGBIT Studies minor. Formerly Women’s Studies, the department changed its name in 2014 to Gender and Sexuality Studies in order to highlight its focus on the study of sexuality, with queer studies as a central area of inquiry. The Department has also grown to include several faculty members who teach courses in queer and transgender studies (Alicia Arrizon, Tamara Ho, Jane Ward, Eric Stanley, Amalia Cabezas, and Katja Guenther).

Given these developments, LGBIT Studies faculty agreed that having a separate LGBIT Studies program is no longer necessary, as this program duplicates current offerings in GSST. The majority of courses regularly offered in fulfillment of the LGBIT minor are GSST courses (taught by GSST faculty and cross-listed with LGBS); in other words, GSST is already the de facto home of the majority of UCR’s Queer Studies curriculum. This program change also follows the national trend of locating Queer Studies minors within Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies departments. Students interested in Queer Studies are likely to look for this curriculum in the GSST Department; whereas the minor’s current status as a free-floating program makes it more difficult for students to access and less integrated with the established discipline of gender studies.

Faculty also agreed that two name changes were in order: 1) changing the name of the LGBIT Studies minor to the Queer Studies minor; and 2) changing the name of the Gender and Sexuality Studies Minor to Feminist Studies.
As for the first change, the LGBIT Studies faculty committee is in agreement that “Queer Studies” is the mostly widely used name for this academic field, and one that speaks to the theoretical and political stakes of queer studies beyond the list of identities described by “LGBT.” All other queer studies projects on campus (Queer Lab, queer studies conferences, and our course titles themselves) reflect this usage. The name change will bring UCR’s minor up to date with current linguistic choices in the broader discipline of Queer Studies.

As for the second change, GSST faculty agreed that retaining a “Gender and Sexuality Studies” minor alongside a “Queer Studies” minor would create too much curricular duplication, as “sexuality studies” and “queer studies” are often taught by GSST faculty as one in the same, or with considerable overlap. Following other campus models, faculty agreed that students will benefit from choosing between two minor tracks: one that emphasizes feminist history, theory, and practice (“Feminist Studies”) and one that emphasizes queer history, theory, and practice (“Queer Studies”). GSST majors will continue to take courses that encompass both curricula.
Dear Prof. Ward,

On behalf of Senate Division Chair Rodríguez, I share some concerns from the LGBITS Special Review Committee. As the committee’s concerns are straightforward, they are included below in this email.

******

The Special Review Committee for the proposal to transfer the LGBITS minor to GSST met on May 1 and noted concern with several statements in the attached proposed change to rename the GSST minor to Feminist Studies and the change to rename the LGBITS minor to Queer Studies that they would like the Program to address before the Committee finalizes their report. The following are the Committee’s concerns and request to the program for clarification:

Proposed Changes to GSST minor to Feminist Studies minor

- The Committee noted concern with the justification for the change and asks the department to clarify if the word “not” should be included in the following sentence as it contradicts the proposed change: To ensure there is a distinction the minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies will not be name as Feminist Studies. The Committee requests that the program clarify this statement.
- The Committee noted concern with the following last sentence of the justification as it lacks clarity and requests that the department revise the sentence: With the minor of the LGBIT minor will result in the development and renaming of the minors to best suit the changes.

Proposed Change to LGITS minor to Queer Studies minor

- The Committee noted concern that a justification was not included for the proposed changes to the upper division requirements for the Social Sciences- 2.c). The Committee requests that the justification section be updated to include a justification for the proposed changes to remove courses from the upper division requirements for social sciences.

If possible, the Committee has requested that the program submit a revised proposal by May 31 so that they can finalize their report as soon as possible.

******

Cherysa Cortez
Executive Director, Academic Senate
University Office Building 221
951.827.6154| cherysac@ucr.edu

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RIVERSIDE

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Dear Dylan and Cherysa,

Attached are the revised catalog copy documents. The first two concerns raised by the committee were about typos in the justification. I have removed these typos and clarified the justification. The third concern was about a lack of justification for cross-listed courses deleted from the social science portion of the requirement. This deletion was an error. I have reinserted these courses. However, they have been edited to make sure that they are listed in alphabetical order (e.g., from LGBS 139/GSST 139 to GSST 139/LGBS 139.)

Best,
Jane

Jane Ward
Professor and Vice Chair
Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies
LGBT Studies Program Chair
University of California, Riverside
web page: http://www.janewardphd.com
blogs: http://feministpigs.blogspot.com/
http://socialinqueery.wordpress.com/


On Fri, May 11, 2018 at 11:03 AM, Cherysa P Cortez <cherysa.cortez@ucr.edu> wrote:

Dear Prof. Ward,

On behalf of Senate Division Chair Rodríguez, I share some concerns from the LGBITS Special Review Committee. As the committee’s concerns are straightforward, they are included below in this email.

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Proposed Changes to GSST minor to Feminist Studies minor

- The Committee noted concern with the justification for the change and asks the department to clarify if the word “not” should be included in the following sentence as it contradicts the proposed change: To ensure there is a distinction the minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies will **not** be name as Feminist Studies. The Committee requests that the program clarify this statement.
- The Committee noted concern with the following last sentence of the justification as it lacks clarity and requests that the department revise the sentence: With the minor of the LGBIT minor will result in the development and renaming of the minors to best suit the changes.

Proposed Change to LGITS minor to Queer Studies minor

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If possible, the Committee has requested that the program submit a revised proposal by May 31 so that they can finalize their report as soon as possible.

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To be adopted:

Proposed Changes to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Intersex, and Transgender Studies Minor to Queer Studies

The program reflects current critical, theoretical, and methodological developments across several disciplines that focus on lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Intersex, and Transgender Studies are by nature interdisciplinary, and this program is meant to encourage new cross-disciplinary research in the field for interested students in the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. The curriculum addresses such issues as sexual identity and orientation; gay, lesbian, and bisexual representation; gay, lesbian, and bisexual perspectives on the arts; retheorizations of gender; sexuality and cultural diversity; intersections of sexualities and ethnic identities.

Requirements for the minor (24 units) [No Change]

1. Lower-division requirements (4 units) chosen from LGBS 001 or GSST 001 [No Change]

2. Upper-division requirements (5 courses [at least 20 units]) chosen from the approved list of courses:

   a) Humanities: at least one of the five from ENGL 122 (E-Z)/LGBS 122 (E-Z), ENGL 143 (E-Z)/LGBS 143 (E-Z)/MCS 143 (E-Z), LGBS 105, LGBS 139/GSST 139

   b) Fine Arts: at least one of the five from DNCE 135, ENGL 143 (E-Z)/LGBS 143 (E-Z)/MCS 143 (E-Z), LGBS 153/MUS 153 [No Change]

   c) Social Sciences: at least one of the five from ANTH 145/GSST 103, ETST 175/GSST 175, LGBS 128/LGBS 128, LGBS 134/GSST 134, LGBS 135/GSST 135, LGBS 137/GSST 137, LGBS 139/GSST 139, LGBS 152/GSST 152, GSST 100 [No Change]
Students may petition to have a course not on the approved list counted towards the five upper division requirements provided they can demonstrate that LGBTI issues play a significant role in the course and that they will focus their own work for the course (amounting to 30% of the final grade) on an LGBTI topic.

Students may use 4 units of LGBS 190 and up to 8 units of LGBS 193 to count towards the five upper division requirements.

Note: Students may satisfy an upper-division requirement by completing 4 units of LGBS 198-I (Internship).

Justification:

1. In recent years, the Gender and Sexuality Studies Department has become the logical home for the LGBTI Studies minor. Formerly Women’s Studies, the department changed its name in 2014 to Gender and Sexuality Studies in order to highlight its focus on the study of sexuality, with queer studies as a central area of inquiry. Given these developments, LGBTI Studies faculty agreed that having a separate LGBTI Studies program is no longer necessary, as this program duplicates current offerings in GSST. The majority of courses regularly offered in fulfillment of the LGBTI minor are GSST courses (taught by GSST faculty and cross-listed with LGBS); in other words, GSST is already the de facto home of the majority of UCR’s Queer Studies curriculum. This program change also follows the national trend of locating Queer Studies minors within Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies departments. Students interested in Queer Studies are likely to look for this curriculum in the GSST Department; whereas the minor’s current status as a free-floating program makes it more difficult for students to access and less integrated with the established discipline of gender studies.

2. The LGBTI Studies faculty committee is in agreement that “Queer Studies” is the mostly widely used name for this academic field, and one that speaks to the theoretical and political stakes of queer studies beyond the list of identities described by “LGBTI.” All other queer studies projects on campus (Queer Lab, queer studies conferences, and our course titles themselves) reflect this usage. The name change will bring UCR’s minor up to date with current linguistic choices in the broader discipline of Queer Studies.

3. GSST faculty agreed that retaining a “Gender and Sexuality Studies” minor alongside a “Queer Studies” minor would create too much curricular duplication, as “sexuality studies” and “queer studies” are often taught by GSST faculty as one in the same, or with considerable overlap. Following other campus models, faculty agreed that students will benefit from choosing between two minor tracks: one that emphasizes feminist history, theory, and practice (“Feminist Studies”) and one that emphasizes queer history, theory, and practice (“Queer Studies”). GSST majors will continue to take courses that encompass both curricula.
4. In sections a) and c) of the minor requirements, crosslisted courses were updated so as to be listed in alphabetical order (e.g., from LGBS 139/GSST 139 to GSST 139/ LGBS 139.)

Approved by the faculty of the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies March 9, 2016
Approved by the Department Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies September 20, 2016
Approved by the Executive Committee of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences:
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy:
To be adopted:

Proposed Changes to minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies Minor to Feminist Studies Minor

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<tr>
<td>The minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies consists of six courses (at least 24 units) distributed as follows:</td>
<td>The minor in Feminist Studies consists of six courses (at least 24 units) distributed as follows:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Lower-division requirements (two courses [at least 8 units])</td>
<td>[No Change]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) GSST 001 or GSST 001H or GSST 001S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) One GSST lower-division course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Upper-division requirements (four courses [at least 16 units])</td>
<td>[No Change]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) GSST 100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Three upper-division GSST courses.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Justification:

Include Justifications for EVERY change/ addition/ deletion that is made.

1. The Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies is requesting the change from the minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies to Feminist Studies Minor. The department is planning on bringing the former: LGBIT Studies minor under the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies. To clarify the distinction between the two minors, the minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies is being changed to the minor in Feminist Studies. The LGBIT minor will be changed to Queer Studies. Due to the lack of staffing resources of the difficulty of securing release time from home departments for faculty to teach queer studies courses, it is logical home for the minor to move to Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Approved by the faculty of the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies: March 9, 2016
Approved by the Department Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies: September 20, 2016
Approved by the Executive Committee of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences:
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy:
Special Review Committee Report on the proposed transfer of the LGBIT Studies Minor to the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies
June 15, 2018

Committee Members:
Chair, Professor Kirill Shtengel, Department of Physics & Astronomy
Professor Wesley Y. Leonard, Department of Ethnic Studies
Professor Leigh Patel, Graduate School of Education
Professor Liz I. Przybylski, Department of Music
Professor Richard T. Rodríguez, Department of Media and Cultural Studies

The Committee was entrusted with the following charge and its report is weighing upon this as follows:

Review the justifications for the transfer of the LGBIT Studies Minor to the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies and provide feedback on the pedagogical and curricular merits of the move in relation to both the quality of undergraduate student education and the correlation of the Minor curriculum to the department faculty's areas of expertise.

The committee reviewed the material it had been presented to explore the background and justification for the proposed change of the “Minor in LGBIT Studies” to the “Minor in Queer Studies” and its transfer to the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies.

The committee generally agreed with the presented justification and found definite pedagogical and curricular merits for such a transfer stemming from the fact that the Gender and Sexuality Studies Department is a natural home for this program. Providing this minor with an institutional home department will eliminate unnecessary curricular, scheduling and staffing issues that had potential for adversely affecting the quality of undergraduate education.

Several specific issues have been raised in the Committee discussion. Part of the provided justification for the name change of the “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Intersex, and Transgender Studies” minor to “Queer Studies” is to be more inclusive. Given that “queer” is often offered as an umbrella term and promoted as such in many UCR venues, the Committee agrees that this will likely hold true most of the time. However, two issues have been mentioned that may complicate this claim: 1) There are people, cultural traditions, and scholarship that seemingly could fall within “queer” but that do not identify with the term, similar to how some strongly feel that “women’s studies” is separate from “gender studies”. 2) “Queer” is itself a category that some people perceive as overly indexed to western culture and thus not inclusive, particularly of Indigenous two-spirit people who occupy non-binary gender identities but may not be “queer”. As two-spirit is also left out of the current minor name (though this would not be true if it were LGBIT2), the proposed name change neither helps nor hurts this particular issue.

However, the special review committee sees the program change as an opportunity to better address the issue of “inclusive” terms that may not be universally perceived as inclusive. For example, the intended breadth of the term “queer” may be better captured in the Catalog description of the minor with wording such as “includes, but is not limited to identities such as [...]” and/or by explicitly mentioning space within the minor for students and scholarship that fall within gender and sexuality but are not “queer”.
The Committee acknowledges that these suggestions may go beyond its immediate charge; it agrees that the currently proposed changes are beneficial from the pedagogical, curricular and logistical points of view and merely uses this opportunity to bring attention to the potential modifications that may further strengthen the Minor.