May 20, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Donna Hamilton
    Associate Provost and Dean, Office of Undergraduate Studies

FROM: Phyllis Porges
    Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to establish a Minor in LGBT Studies (PCC log no. 07076)

In its meeting on May 16, the Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula and Courses approved your proposal to establish a Minor in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies. A copy of the approved proposal is attached.

The Minor is effective Fall, 2008. The Office of Undergraduate Studies should ensure that the changes are fully described in the Undergraduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials, and that all advisors are informed.

CWR/

Enclosure

cc: Carmen Balthrop, Chair, Senate PCC Committee
    Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid
    Reka Montfort, University Senate
    Barbara Hope, Data Administration
    Denise Nadasen, Institutional Research & Planning
    Anne Turkos, Archives
    Linda Yuko, Office of the Registrar
    Scott Wolpert, Undergraduate Studies
    Kathy McAdams, Undergraduate Studies
    Marlee Lindemann, LGBT Studies
THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

DIRECTIONS:
- Provide one form with original approval signatures in lines 1-4 for each proposed action. Keep this form to one page in length.
- Early consultation with the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning & Programs is strongly recommended if there are questions or concerns, particularly with new programs.
- Please submit the signed form to Claudia Rector, Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.
- Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.

DATE SUBMITTED: March 29, 2008

COLLEGE/SCHOOL: Undergraduate Studies

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies

PROPOSED ACTION (A separate form for each) ADD X DELETE CHANGE

DESCRIPTION (Provide a succinct account of the proposed action. Details should be provided in an attachment. Provide old and new sample programs for curriculum changes.)

A PROPOSAL FOR AN UNDERGRADUATE MINOR IN LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER STUDIES.

JUSTIFICATION/REASONS/RESOURCES (Briefly explain the reason for the proposed action. Identify the source of new resources that may be required. Details should be provided in an attachment.)

The Certificate in this area has been popular but requires too many courses to work with demanding schedules of many majors. The minor, 15 credits, is more suitable for students who want to develop a base of knowledge in this area while they major in another subject. More than 10 professors are associated with the program and can provide courses and mentoring to students. No new resources needed.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date

1. Department Committee Chair
   Marilee Lindemann
   Marilee Lindemann
   4/8/08

2. Department Chair
   Marilee Lindemann
   Marilee Lindemann
   4/8/08

3. College/School PCC Chair
   David Mount
   David Mount
   4/9/08

4. Dean
   Don B. Hamer
   4/17/08

5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)

6. Chair, Senate PCC
   Cassavela Balkin
   5/15/08

7. Chair of Senate

8. Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost
   Phyllis Areo
   5/20/08

VPAAP 8-05
Proposal for a Minor in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies
[Transcript Designation: LGBT Studies]
[Academic Division: Undergraduate Studies]

Submitted by Marilee Lindemann, Associate Professor, English, and Director, LGBT Studies, and endorsed by the Faculty Oversight Committee in LGBT Studies (William A. Cohen, Associate Professor, English; Ruth E. Fassinger, Professor, Counseling and Personnel Services; Christina Hanhardt, Assistant Professor, American Studies and LGBT Studies; Luke Jensen, Director, Office of LGBT Equity; Katie King, Associate Professor, Women’s Studies; Laura Mamo, Assistant Professor, Sociology; Jason Rudy, Assistant Professor, English; Martha Nell Smith, Professor, English)

The minor in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Studies will be a truncated version of the upper-division certificate in the field currently offered by the LGBT Studies program. The certificate is a 21-credit course of study comprised of 15 required and 6 elective credits. The minor will be a 15-credit course of study comprised of 12 required and three elective credits.

Justification/Reasons/Resources: The justification for offering a streamlined credential in LGBT Studies is to make the program accessible to students who don’t have room in their course of study for a 21-credit certificate. The notation of the minor on a student’s academic transcript will inform prospective employers or admissions committees for graduate and professional programs that the student has successfully completed a focused, substantive, and coherent program of study in a cutting-edge interdisciplinary field. The minor will be of value to students whose future plans include careers in such fields as personnel and human resources, journalism, law, public health, and public policy or graduate study in the humanities or social sciences.

The impact on resources and enrollments is expected to be minimal. We currently have about 25 students enrolled in the LGBT Studies program and have been awarding 4-5 certificates per year. The number of students in the program has been growing steadily and will likely grow more with the addition of a minor. We do not anticipate that the minor will adversely affect enrollment in the certificate program. We expect it will attract students whose courses of study cannot accommodate the 21 credits required to earn the certificate. All of the courses required for the minor are currently being offered on a regular basis. LGBT 200 (Introduction to LGBT Studies) is offered in 35-seat sections once each semester. Since that course will be required of all students pursuing either the certificate or the minor, we may need to add additional sections as enrollments grow. The program has the resources to do that – and, indeed, is doing that for the 2008-09 school year. We will be offering two sections of LGBT 200 each semester. Both sections for fall are already full.

The key difference between the minor and the certificate program will be that students seeking the minor will not be required to take a capstone course, which, in LGBT Studies, is either a seminar (LGBT 488) or an internship (LGBT 386). However,
students pursuing the minor will be allowed to take either of those courses as their elective should they wish to do so.

**Catalog Description:** The Program in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies (LGBT) offers an interdisciplinary undergraduate certificate (21 credits) and a minor (15 credits), both of which are designed to examine the lives, experiences, identities, and representations of LGBT persons, those who are today described as having a minority sexual orientation or who are gender-transgressive. Students study LGBT families and communities; cultures and subcultures; histories, institutions, languages and literatures; economics and politics; and the complex relations of sexual minorities to the culture and experience of the gender-conformant and (hetero)sexual majority. LGBT Studies is an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary field, and promotes the application of new theories and methodologies (e.g., queer, feminist, critical race, and multicultural theories) to established disciplines, and it advances the generation of new knowledge within traditional fields of scholarship. Through study of sexual minorities, students gain an understanding of and respect for other differences in human lives such as age, ability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, and religion. With their faculty advisors, candidates for the certificate and the minor design a program that complements their major field of study.

**Requirements for the Minor in LGBT Studies:**

15 credits: 12 credits are in required courses, while 3 credits are earned in one upper-level elective course.

A. Required core curriculum for the Minor in LGBT Studies (12 credits)

1. LGBT 200--Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies
2. One lower-level course focused on literature, art, or culture by or about LGBT people, either ENGL 265 or CMLT 291;
3. One of the following upper-division courses focused on the personal, social, political, and historical aspects of LGBT people: LGBT 350, PHIL 407, or WMST 494;
4. One of the following upper-division courses focused on literature, art, or culture by or about LGBT people: ENGL 359, 459, 465; or LGBT 327.

B. Elective course for the Minor in LGBT Studies (3 credits)

An upper-division elective will complement the required courses. This elective may be a course from categories 3 and 4 above that has not been used to fulfill requirements; or it may be one of the capstone courses in LGBT Studies [LGBT 386 or LGBT 488], or a course chosen from the following list of approved electives for the LGBT Studies program.
Approved Electives:

- AASP398T Selected Topics in the African Diaspora: Gender, Sexuality, and the Black Family
- AASP478Q Humanities Topics in Afro-American Studies: AIDS and African American: History, Rhetoric, and Literature
- AASP498X Special Topics in Black Culture: Race, Gender, and Labor;
- CMLT 498L: Sexuality in the Cinema
- EDCP 418D: Special Topics in Leadership: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Leadership
- ENGL 428B: Seminar in Language & Literature: Race, Gender, and Sexuality
- ENGL444/WMST444 Feminist Critical Theory
- FMST330 Family Theories and Patterns
- FMST430/WMST430 Gender Issues in Families
- HLTH377 Human Sexuality
- LGBT327 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Film and Video;
- LGBT448: Special Topics in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies: Asian American Sexualities
- LGBT 448L: Special Topics in LGBT Studies: Law and Identities;
- PSYC332 Psychology of Human Sexuality
- SOCY325/WMST325 The Sociology of Gender
- WMST400 Theories of Feminism.

Appropriate substitutions for courses listed in categories 2 through 4 may be made with approval from the Director of LGBT Studies.

No course with an earned grade below “C” (2.0) will count toward the minor in LGBT Studies.

Students may use a maximum of six credits (or two courses) to satisfy the requirements of both their major and the minor in LGBT Studies. However, courses taken to complete the minor in LGBT Studies may not be used to satisfy the requirements of another minor.

No more than six of the required credits (or two courses) may be taken at an institution other than the University of Maryland, College Park. However, at least six upper division credits applied to the minor must be taken at this university.

Students must declare the minor in LGBT Studies to the Director of LGBT Studies one year prior to their intended graduation to assure appropriate advising and record-keeping.

**Advising and Oversight:**

Oversight for this minor will be provided by the Faculty Oversight Committee of the LGBT Studies program. The director of LGBT Studies will be the primary advisor for the minor and will be responsible for assuring that records are appropriately kept.
Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for the minor in LGBT Studies.

Student Learning Outcomes:

In keeping with the above goals and foci, students should expect to achieve the following outcomes through their work in the LGBT Studies Program:

- familiarity with major concepts and vocabulary in the field of LGBT Studies;
- proficiency in interpreting same-sex sexuality/eroticism as an aspect of literary/cultural expression;
- critical reasoning and research skills in the field of LGBT Studies.

The Director of LGBT Studies and the Faculty Oversight Committee will conduct assessments of how effectively students in the program are meeting the above goals on a regular basis. Data will be collected and analyzed for one of the three goals every year, and each goal will be assessed every three years.