June 3, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Donna Hamilton
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean for Undergraduate Studies

Bonnie Thornton Dill
Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

FROM: Elizabeth Beise
Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to Move the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Studies (LGBT) Program to the Department of Women’s Studies (PCC log no. 12052)

The proposal to move the administrative home of the LBGT undergraduate certificate and minor programs from Undergraduate Studies to the Department of Women’s Studies in the College of Arts and Humanities has been administratively approved. A copy of the approved proposal is attached.

The change is effective Fall 2013. Please ensure that the change is fully described in the Undergraduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials.

MDC/Enclosure

cc: William Idsardi, Chair, Senate PCC Committee
Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid
Reka Montfort, University Senate
Erin Howard, Division of Information Technology
Pam Phillips, Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment
Anne Turkos, University Archives
Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar
Robert Gaines, Office of Undergraduate Studies
Alene Moyer, College of Arts and Humanities
Marilee Lindemann, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Studies
Seung-kyung Kim, Women’s Studies
College/School:
Please also add College/School Unit Code-First 8 digits:
Unit Codes can be found at: https://hypprod.umd.edu/Html_Reports/units.htm
UGST01202100
ARHU01202700

Department/Program:
Please also add Department/Program Unit Code-Last 7 digits:
LGBT1210401
WMST12733701

Type of Action (choose one):

- Curriculum change (including informal specializations)
- Renaming of program or formal Area of Concentration
- Addition/deletion of formal Area of Concentration
- Suspend/delete program
- New academic degree/award program
- New Professional Studies award iteration
- New Minor
- X Other

*Italics indicate that the proposed program action must be presented to the full University Senate for consideration.*

Summary of Proposed Action:

Deans Bonnie Thornton Dill, ARHU and Donna Hamilton, UGST are proposing the move of the administrative home of the LGBT Studies Program from Undergraduate Studies to the Department of Women's Studies beginning academic year 2013-2014. The move is precipitated by the fact that (1) UGST was always intended to be a temporary rather than a permanent home for LGBT Studies; (2) UGST is an administrative division exclusively devoted to undergraduate education; (3) LGBT Studies would be better served in an academic department whose research and teaching agendas align with those of LGBT Studies. It is proposed that reassignment of the administrative home of LGBT Studies will occur with its current hard budget and plans for space allocation. Implementation of this administrative move if approved by PCC, is contingent upon attaining sufficient addition funding so that the program can maintain its current level of operation. Those resources are being sought by the Deans.
APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date. Use additional lines for multi-unit programs.

1a. ARHU PCC Chair

1b. UGST PCC Chair

2a. ARHU Dean

2b. UGST Dean

3. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)

4. Chair, Senate PCC

5. University Senate Chair (if required)

6. Senior Vice President and Provost
Proposal

Administrative Move

of

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies Program/UGST

to

Women's Studies Department/ARHU

College of Arts and Humanities

Bonnie T. Dill
Dean

&

Office of Undergraduate Studies

Donna B. Hamilton
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs
Dean for Undergraduate Studies

University of Maryland at College Park

Taskforce Members:

Christina B. Hanhardt, AMST & LGBT Studies
Marilee Lindemann, ENGL & Director, LGBT Studies
Ashwini Tambe, WMST
Ruth Zambrana, WMST
Gabriele Strauch, GERM/SLLC, Chair

March 7, 2013
Rationale

We are proposing that the administrative home of the LGBT Studies Program be moved from Undergraduate Studies to the Department of Women’s Studies beginning in academic year 2013-2014. LGBT Studies has grown tremendously because of UGST’s strong support, but it has also been constrained by its location in a unit that has no tenure lines and focuses exclusively on undergraduate education. LGBT Studies has thus far been limited in its access to graduate students and its ability to professionalize the next generation of scholars of sex and gender. It could much more effectively participate in graduate education if it were housed in an academic department with a graduate program. This move will enhance the University of Maryland’s already strong reputation in both women’s studies and LGBT Studies. The faculty and staff stakeholders of both units have agreed to the administrative move, presuming that the University will commit resources (operating budget, space, and administrative costs) to it.

History of Units and their Relationship

Women’s Studies Department: WMST currently offers a major and an undergraduate certificate in women’s studies as well as a minor in black women’s studies. It has offered a graduate certificate in women’s studies since 1991 and was one the first departments in the US to inaugurate a PhD in women’s studies in 1999. The department has 12 core faculty members and more than 80 affiliate faculty across campus, including six who are also affiliate faculty in LGBT Studies. It is widely recognized as one of the top graduate programs in Women’s Studies in the country and beyond, and has been associated with key institutions in the field, such as the National Women’s Studies Association, and the flagship journal Feminist Studies.

LGBT Studies: LGBT Studies was approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission as an upper-division undergraduate certificate program in the spring of 2002. With strong support from Dean Donna Hamilton and under the leadership of founding director Professor Marilee Lindemann, LGBT Studies has developed into “one of the most visible LGBT Studies programs in the US,” according to a scholar in the field who was asked in 2009 to assess Lindemann’s tenure as director. Another expert said that Maryland’s program “serves as a blueprint from which to model future LGBT Studies programs on other campuses.”

In addition to the program director, LGBT Studies has an assistant director (whose duties are 50% teaching and 50% administration), one core faculty member (who teaches one course a semester for the program), and 16 affiliate faculty members. In addition to the 21-credit certificate, the program now offers a 15-credit minor. Since 2002, 55 students have graduated with the certificate and 14 with the minor. There are currently 30 students enrolled in the certificate track and 16 in the minor track. The program has a roster of ten courses that it regularly offers and staffs, most of which satisfy requirements for CORE or General Education Diversity. Marquee initiatives include the program’s annual lecture series – now in its eleventh
year -- and the DC Queer Studies Symposium, an annual one-day conference organized by a group of faculty from schools in the Consortium of Universities in the Washington Metropolitan Area.

**History of relationship between WMST and LGBT Studies.**
Since its inception WMST has included as part of its curricular offerings the study of sexuality and a number of students have written dissertations on varying dimension of sexual identity. In 1994, core WMST faculty member Katie King taught the very first iteration of the course that would become the gateway to the LGBT Studies certificate: WMST298E, Constructing a Field: An Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Studies. Since the formation of the LGBT Studies Program in 2002, WMST graduate students have been funded and supported by the LGBT Studies Program through teaching or administrative GA-ships. In 2007, WMST was essential to the successful faculty search conducted by LGBT Studies, which hired Christina Hanhardt and Jeffrey McCune. Most recently, the two units collaborated, with others (AMST, ANTH, and SOCY), on the proposal for a cluster hire in sex/gender/queer studies that was submitted to the Provost. Although not funded, this kind of collaboration remains an aspiration for this transformed unit as a cluster hire in this area would catapult it to even greater national and international recognition.

**Strengths of Integrating WMST/LGBT Studies**
The movement of program oversight of LGBT Studies to Women’s Studies at the University of Maryland affords an important opportunity to begin the process of consolidating a range of approaches to the study of sex, sexuality, and normativity at the University and requires the leadership of scholars who have been active in multiple approaches to the field in their research, administration, and service. LGBT Studies encompasses different and important contributions to the study of sex, gender, sexuality, and normativity within a wide variety of historical, social, cultural, and geographic contexts. The growth of these areas of scholarship in the interdisciplinary humanities and social sciences is reflected in the increased citation of these terms as well as in a new and significant commitment to hiring in these areas.

The proposed administrative move would better reflect the intellectual profile of the Women’s Studies faculty and also visibly signal these interests for prospective graduate students. Over the past decade since the inception of its PhD program, WMST has noticed a strong current of interest in LGBT Studies among graduate applicants and has admitted a series of students with dissertation projects in the area. Many WMST doctoral students have taught undergraduate courses for the LGBT Studies Program, but they have done so in an ad hoc fashion and often through overloads. The combined unit will attract more students with these interests and provide them with graduate teaching opportunities in a more systematic way than is possible under the current structure. There is also strong interest from other units on campus such as American Studies, English, and Sociology in developing a graduate certificate in sex/gender/queer/LGBT Studies. Such a credential would be a valuable asset to graduate students competing in tight job markets in the humanities and the social and behavioral sciences.
The Women’s Studies undergraduate program also stands to gain from being able to offer a wider suite of courses on sexuality. An administrative move would provide the basis for potentially satisfying the needs of students with interests in both areas, and also offer a more expansive intellectual understanding of both. Joint programming of student activities would create a more vibrant presence for the department across the university. In other words, the Women’s Studies Department explicitly seeks to expand its undergraduate profile and the move of LGBT Studies would help in that effort because of the latter’s great success as an undergraduate program.

The joint unit would also be better able to address the challenges and opportunities of competing and collaborating with other universities in the CIC as well as contribute to the CIC CourseShare program. 100% of the institutions in the CIC have a unit in which women’s, gender, and sexuality studies is critically important. All 15 institutions offer undergraduate majors, minors, or certificates as well as PhDs and/or graduate minors/certificates in some combination of these areas. In the vast majority of cases, women’s studies, gender studies, LGBT studies, and sexuality studies are housed in a single academic unit. By joining the forces of two outstanding and nationally recognized programs and transforming the way we do such work at Maryland, we will elevate our visibility and more effectively compete with if not surpass our new partners in the CIC.

Resources Required:

**Budget.** The current operating budget of LGBT Studies is $125,000, of which $52,086 is hard budget, with additional soft funding of $75,000. Dean Hamilton has confirmed that the hard budget will move with the program, provided there are no percentage cuts imposed for FY14, and a request will be made to the Provost for the additional $75,000 needed to continue to offer courses, bring in lecturers, hire graduate assistants and operate the program.

Further, Dean Hamilton has confirmed that when the program moves the furniture in the current suite does not move, but the equipment is allowed to move.

**Space for combined unit.** LGBT Studies is currently housed in a suite in Marie Mount Hall that includes three offices, a small conference room, and a reception area. WMST is currently incompletely housed on the 2nd floor of Woods Hall. As the department has grown, demands on space have tightened. Currently, one faculty member has to have an office in the basement because of insufficient space on the 2nd floor. All graduate student offices have had to be moved to the basement of the neighboring building, Taliaferro. Dean Hamilton has agreed to permit LGBT Studies to remain in its current space in the UGST offices for the next year, after which ARHU will have to find space to accommodate the program. Ideally and in the long run, shared space adequate to the needs of the combined unit would be needed.

**Christina Hanhardt’s position.** The funds for the position held by Christina Hanhardt were provided by the Provost as an enhancement specifically to LGBT Studies. Christina’s letter of
offer specifies that, while her tenure home is in American Studies, she is obligated to teach two undergraduate courses in LGBT Studies each year, a commitment that will remain in place with this proposed move. Further, because the position was funded specifically for LGBT Studies, should Christina leave the University of Maryland the accrued funds on her line should be treated in a manner analogous to how they would have been treated had LGBT Studies remained in UGST. In that case, the accrued funds on her line would have been transferred to the Dean for Undergraduate Studies to initiate another search for LGBT Studies, discipline and tenure home open. Likewise, in this new arrangement the funds would transfer to the Dean of Arts and Humanities to begin a search for someone with an LGBT specialty, discipline open/tenure home in Arts and Humanities open, but with a commitment to teach half the course load in LGBT Studies.