

PROPOSAL: Eliminate Gender and Women's Studies as a Department

Background

Two years ago in January 2023, a decision was made to change the administrative structure of Gender and Women's Studies (GWS) due to dwindling faculty numbers and limited enrollment. At that time, all the courses, the major and the minor were moved to the Department of Sociology, as recommended by the GWS faculty, allowing students to continue to pursue their interests in the field. No faculty or staff were eliminated with this move. The final step in this transition is to reduce administrative overhead by closing GWS as a standalone academic unit while keeping the major, minor and courses intact.

The College of Arts and Sciences remains committed to the field and to providing educational and research opportunities. Efforts are underway to enhance recruitment, increase retention and grow the number of majors, minors and student credit hours in this critical area of study.

Recommended Action

Eliminate Gender and Women's Studies as a department.