

Response by the Women and Gender Studies Program
To the Statement of the External Reviewers
“Academic Review of the Women and Gender Studies
Program At California State University, Fullerton”

March 22, 2013

I would like to start to by acknowledging the terrific work the external review team did both on the day of their visit and on their report. The Women and Gender Studies Program enjoyed visiting with them when they were here and we learned a good deal from our discussions with them at that time. We have met and discussed their report and I will summarize our responses to their recommendations below.

1. We agree that in order to grow and move in new and curricularly appropriate directions, the Women and Gender Studies Program must hire in the near future. The review committee suggests two hires, one in sexuality and queer studies and the other in an area prioritized by the Program. We find this recommendation to be very helpful and agree that our next hire, which we plan to pursue in the 13-14 academic year, will be for a position that covers queer studies. In deciding what our next hire after that will be we will take into consideration the suggestions made by the review committee and will weigh these with the needs and desires of our student population. Based on these recommendations we hope to be able to make a second hire in the next two years.
2. The creation of a graduate certificate is in our five year plan but we understand the committee's apprehension about this step without enough faculty to support the program. We hope with two new hires in the next two years we will be able to start on the certificate soon after that.
3. In terms of the Women and Gender Studies Program curriculum, we both agree and disagree with the recommendations of the reviewers. As I wrote in

the self-study, we plan to revise and reorganize the curriculum in the major and minor to reflect both the program's name change and recent changes in the field of Women and Gender Studies. In this process it would be wonderful to create and offer more opportunities for faculty to teach research-specific courses but this relies less on the curriculum than on the number of majors necessary to support numerous 400 level seminars. Increasing our number of majors is a primary goal for Women and Gender Studies.

In response to the committee's concerns about syllabi content I would like to assure the administration that syllabi are part of the evaluation process for all faculty. We are also going to be assessing syllabi and learning goals for each general education class individually over the next two years as part of our overall assessment program.

4. We are not clear as to what exactly the reviewers believe needs to be improved in our advising program. It is possible and perhaps advisable to post our advising forms online and we can do this. We already have all the information necessary to complete the major posted clearly on the webpage.

We do agree that we need more majors and in order to grow as a major need to find new ways to recruit majors. We have many more minors than majors and this shows there is an interest on campus that we better need to tap into. We propose to return to a practice we have done in the past that involved

- sending letters out at the end of the semester with all students in our GE courses explaining a bit more about the major and how easy it is to declare and how well it goes along with many other majors. We also plan to have current majors visit the GE classes and talk a bit about their experiences.
5. We are aware that a database on alumni does exist and we do use it. Last year for Women's History Month we had an alumni panel that was a great success. We are currently working on an alumni scholarship for current students and hope to increase the alumni participation in the near future. We agree that more use of alumni is a great idea.
 6. While we do not have formal pedagogy meetings at this time, pedagogy is certainly a central issue in our faculty meetings. We do plan to meet with all instructors, PT, tenure-track and tenured, by class over the next two years to discuss pedagogy, syllabi, and general expectations. We are starting next month with WMST 100, the course of which we have the most sections.

We find all four of the recommendations for the College and University to be exceptionally helpful. Obviously, we are invested in hiring in the near future and we are very pleased the review committee is so supportive of this goal. We are also pleased the committee understand that in order to grow and maintain a high quality academic presence in the field of Women and Gender Studies our faculty needs time to do research and publish as well as take care of the many service responsibilities that come with being part of a small and dynamic department. While not one of our proposals, a speaker series or a set of workshops on topics of interest to Women

and Gender Studies students would be a wonderful addition to our program and if the funding was available we would be happy to do this. Finally, we are most pleased that the committee understood the importance of our Women and Gender Studies program space and its constitution. We look forward to working with the College and the University on these recommendations in the future.