

Attachment 2

Academic Affairs

Discussion Agenda Supplemental Information

College of Arts and Sciences (11-7-13)

Women's Studies

ADD: Queer Studies Minor

15 hours required for the minor.

Required Course:

WOMST 325: Queer Studies: Concepts, History, and Politics Credits: (3)

Elective Courses (12 Credit Hours)

Students may choose electives from approved list that will evolve as the KSU curriculum changes. Currently:

WOMST 460: Coming Out and Sexual Identity Credits: (3)

WOMST 700: when Queer of Color Critique

WOMST 500: when Love and Sex in India

WOMST 700: when Sexuality Studies

WOMST 700: when Global Sexual Identities

AMETH 560: when The Intersection of Race, Ethnicity, Gender and Sexual Orientation For LGB Students

COMM 450: when Communication and Sexuality

ENGL 680: when Queer Native Literature and Theory

ENGL 740: when Queer Theory

HIST 559: Aztec, Inca, Maya

LEAD 350: Culture and Context in Leadership

LEAD 502: when Queer Leadership

SOCIO 500: when Sociology of Sexuality

RATIONALE:

This proposal establishes a Minor in Queer Studies. 15 credit hours.

In his 2013 inauguration speech, President Obama pronounced gay and lesbian rights as national goals: "Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law." This proclamation epitomizes the contemporary prominence of LGBT people and queer rights activism in contemporary American culture. The number of declared same-sex households has been shown in the last two censuses to be on the rise. Simultaneously, Queer Studies has blossomed as an academic field in the last decades, supporting social policy debates and providing theoretical tools with which to better understand diverse populations and cultures. The definition of "diversity" is changing to include sexual identity. This minor will bring together the growing number of courses that K-State is offering in this area, and will reflect the growing visibility and importance of sexual identity within current discussions of diversity. A minor in Queer Studies will help K-State fulfill its K-State 2025 plans,

which include curricular and community focus on diversity, and also include becoming competitive with cutting edge research institutions around the nation. Currently, over 50 colleges and universities have a major or minor in Queer/LGBTQ/Sexuality Studies, including such prestigious institutions as Stanford, Cornell, and the University of Michigan, as well as our regional rival KU. The Queer Studies minor at KSU will put us in with the leading cadre of universities in the nation. IT will support and promote an important new field of scholarly and social inquiry. It will benefit both to queer-identified individuals and all members of the society who wish to function effectively in our increasingly diverse culture and workforce. It will provide a curricular counterpart to and support for the community work done by such campus organizations as the LGBT Resource Center and Gamma Rho Lambda.

The queer studies minor would:

1. Prepare our students for the reality of the growing diversity of 21st century global societies.
2. Augment and make visible the commitment to diversity at the level of curriculum, as promoted in the K-State 2025 plan.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the queer studies minor, students will be able to:

1. Understand that sexuality is a social construction and that heterosexuality is a normative construct.
2. Articulate the diversities of cultures and perspectives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersexed, and queer people and communities, and understand how ethnicity/race, gender and socioeconomic class shape these diversities.
3. Apply queer lenses of critique in reading texts.

These outcomes will be assessed in the one required course for the minor: WOMST 325. The outcomes will be assessed in rotation, with one outcome being assessed each year, through written exams, papers, class projects, and class activities. This minor would be housed in and administered by the Women's Studies Department. The core required courses would be offered by the Women's Studies Department, with electives offered by an array of disciplines across campus. (In this way, it would function along the same model as the existing Women's Studies Major and Minor.) Students may complete the Queer Studies minor along with the Women's Studies major or minor (or with any other disciplinary major or minor), as long as they fulfill the elective requirements with separate classes. No more than 1 course may be counted toward both a Queer Studies Minor and a Women's Studies Minor.

IMPACT: The Queer Studies minor will benefit other departments who offer electives in this area, as it will help publicize these courses across disciplines. It may also lead to interdisciplinary projects and research collaborations among both students and faculty who discover these curricular links and campus resources.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Spring 2014