

OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS

Agenda Item 3.11 Wright State University, Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies

**RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Chancellor and with the concurrence of the Initiatives Committee of the Ohio Board of Regents that the Wright State University Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in Women's Studies is approved.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY**

Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies

**Request:** Wright State University seeks approval for a Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies. The B.A. in Women's Studies will be offered by the College of Liberal Arts and administered by the Director of Women's Studies through the Women's Center. The proposed interdisciplinary degree program builds on an existing minor, established in 1996, and the undergraduate and graduate certificate programs. Additionally it complements the Global Gender Studies Track in the International Studies major.

**Program Purpose/Mission:** Women's Studies provides an interdisciplinary approach to the study of gender influences on personal identities, cultural and artistic expressions, social arrangements, political and economic systems, and ways of knowing and understanding the world. The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies is organized around three major areas of inquiry: feminist thought, women in multicultural perspective, and women in international perspective. By addressing past and present social inequities, Women's Studies promotes intellectual and practical problem-solving, on both the individual and societal level. Students develop written and oral communication skills and the analytical and critical thinking skills needed to prepare for a variety of careers in an increasingly diverse economic and political environment. Completion of the B.A. in Women's Studies prepares students for a broad array of graduate and professional programs and a broad range of careers in such areas as research, writing, teaching, public policy, social and health services, law, business, and communications in public, private, and non-profit organizations at local, national and international levels.

**Enrollments:** Wright State University anticipates enrollments of 10 students per year, over the next five years.

**Curriculum:** Students in the proposed B.A. in Women's Studies receive a well-rounded Liberal Arts education. In addition to university and college requirements, students must complete 20 hours of core courses and 31-36 hours of additional requirements. 40 hours of approved courses within the major must be at the 300-level or above. In addition, students are required to complete either an independent field experience offered by local community agencies or a faculty-guided independent study culminating in a research paper. As a result of the existing minor and certificate programs, all core and elective courses already exist and provide students a very wide array of options across four colleges, including the College of Liberal Arts. A total of 192 credit hours are required for the completion of the degree program.

**Faculty:** As a result of the faculty resources that support the existing minor and certificate programs, no additional resources will be required for the B.A. in Women's Studies. Approximately 40 faculty from across the University teach courses as affiliated faculty in the Women's Studies program.

**Evidence of Need:** The proposed degree program evolved from student demand for a free-standing Women's Studies program as well as a growing trend nationally and internationally toward the development of such programs. Women's Studies programs are available at various institutions across Ohio. Most of these programs are outside the region primarily served by Wright State University and serve very different student populations. Miami University has a relatively new program in Women's Studies. Antioch College offers a concentration in Women's Studies as part of an Interdisciplinary Studies Program. Wright State University provides an affordable and accessible option through the proposed B.A. in Women's Studies for its traditional commuter and adult student populations.

**Licensure Requirements:** There are no licensure requirements associated with degrees in Women's Studies.

**Resource Needs:** No additional faculty, facilities or equipment are needed for this program.