Annex II

Eberly College of Arts and Sciences

Proposal to Revise the Women's Studies Minor
Submitted by Barbara J. Howe, Interim Director, Center for Women's Studies
6 March 2000

The Center for Women's Studies wishes to revise its minor by substituting WMST 195: Seminar for WMST 240: Methods and Perspectives in Women's Studies. Effective August 2001, with the course renumbering system in effect, this course will be WMST 494: Seminar.

(1) Current minor description (catalog copy):

Women's Studies: 19 credit hours, including WMST 40, 240 (7 hours), and four additional courses (12 hours) chosen from among approved courses and instructors. Because courses counted toward the Women's Studies minor are interdisciplinary and vary from semester to semester, major advisors cannot certify women's studies courses for graduation. Students interested in completing a minor in Women's Studies must be advised by the Center for Women's Studies. Completion of Women's Studies minors is certified by the Center for Women's Studies rather than by the student's major advisor.

(2) Our proposed new copy is as follows:

Women's Studies: 18 credit hours, including WMST 40, 195 (6 hours), and four additional courses (12 hours) chosen from among approved courses and instructors. Because courses counted toward the Women's Studies minor are interdisciplinary and vary from semester to semester, major advisors cannot certify women's studies courses for graduation. Students interested in completing a minor in Women's Studies must be advised by the Center for Women's Studies. Completion of Women's Studies minors is certified by the Center for Women's Studies rather than by the student's major advisor.

(3) Justification for the change:

We are making this change because WMST 240, a 4-credit-hour course which had served as our capstone course, has not proved to be as useful a course as we had anticipated when the course was designed in the 1980s. At that time, the intention was that students would have a 3-hour course focused on women's studies and then do individual projects relating their courses in their major to their women's studies work for the 4th credit hour. That was difficult to negotiate and was eventually dropped so that WMST 240 became a 4-credit-hour course in Women's Studies. We are in the process of revising our capstone course experience and feel that the flexibility of the seminar number will allow us to rotate faculty to teach this course and allow us more freedom to focus on topics of current interest to our students through this generic course number that is already available to all units. Because WMST 240 was a 4-credit-hour course, and both 195 and 494 are 3-credit-hour courses, we will be lowering the total number of credit hours from 19 to 18.