DePaul University Academic Program Review

Cycle 5: Spring 2002--Spring 2003

Memorandum of Agreement -- July 2003

Women’s Studies Program

As a result of the fifth cycle of DePaul University's Academic Program Review Process (Cycle 5), the participants in the process enter into the following agreements. The participants understand that this document will be available to be made public once all the signatures are in place.

University Commitments to Cycle Five Units:

1. Academic and Career Advising:
   a. The University will look into providing institutional assistance for graduate/professional school preparation in terms of publicizing and making certain that standardized test preparation programs are available.
   b. The University will look into implementing advising alerts through Campus Connect that encourage students to contact their advisors prior to enrolling in courses.

2. Diversity:

   Consistent with the University’s mission, DePaul University remains strongly committed to promoting the diversity of faculty, students, and staff. Academic Affairs will support a variety of strategies developed by departments and programs to enhance such diversity.

University Commitments to Interdisciplinary Studies Programs:

1. Cross Referencing Courses:

   The University will look into having ARC (the Advising Resource Center) identify departmental courses that count for credit in various interdisciplinary studies programs and cross-referencing those courses in Campus Connect under interdisciplinary program headings to increase student awareness of course options in the Interdisciplinary Studies Programs.

Actions agreed upon for the coming academic year:

1. Implementation of New Curriculum

   The Women’s Studies Program held a faculty retreat regarding implementing the new curriculum requirements including: internationalizing the program, strengthening the core courses, requiring concentrations, maintaining the program’s interdisciplinary character, and reviewing the criteria for electives to be accepted as credit toward a major in the program. Implementation of the new curriculum will continue in the 2003-2004 academic year.
2. Assessment of Student Learning

Determine ways, other than portfolios, to examine and assess student work and learning in the program. One possibility is to collect random samples of completed assignments and use them to see if the program’s new learning goals are evident within student work.

3. Annual Syllabus Review

Syllabi for courses taught within Women’s Studies Program will be annually evaluated with the focus on various selected areas, possibly including courses being taught by faculty new to the program and courses within various concentrations. A matrix will be constructed to determine if courses are meeting learning goals and how the goals are distributed across the curriculum.

4. Advising Issues

   a. Academic: The revised curriculum and the Women’s Studies core courses will address some advising concerns by giving an overview of the program in WMS 100. Additionally, PeopleSoft will be used to proactively contact students when possible. Students will also be tracked and advised through the core curriculum (WMS 200 and 250). 

   b. Career: Career and graduate education preparation will be covered in programs offered by the faculty: Fall quarter: “What can you do with a WMS major?” and Spring quarter Career/Graduate School preparation.

5. Constitution

Multiple revisions of a new constitution regarding program governance have been circulated and are expected to be ratified in the Spring of 2003. Changes to the constitution will go into effect in the Fall of 2003.

6. Diversity

The program and University are committed to expanding diversity through minority recruiting. The Women’s Studies Program is prioritizing people of color in its search for a one-year faculty position. It is hoped that through the recruitment of minority faculty in the program (either directly through faculty lines or by having cross-listed courses taught by minority faculty from other departments) that the diversity of students within the program will also increase. Finally, the revised curriculum addresses diversity issues through its focus on globalization.

Signed:

Chair of Unit Review Committee  Department Chair/Program Director

Chair of APRC Subcommittee   Chair of APRC

Dean of the College

Associate V.P. for Academic Affairs  Executive V.P. for Academic Affairs