MEMORANDUM

TO: Allan R. Landon
    Chairperson, Board of Regents

VIA: David McClain
    President

FROM: Virginia S. Hinshaw
    Chancellor

SUBJECT: Approval of Established Status for the Advanced Certificate in Women’s Studies, College of Social Sciences, Mānoa Campus

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:
I request that the Board of Regents grant established status to the Advanced Certificate in Women’s Studies program in the College of Social Sciences at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

ADDITIONAL COST:
No additional costs are associated with this request.

RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE:
Upon the approval of the Board of Regents.

PURPOSE:
The Advanced Certificate in Women’s Studies has completed its provisional cycle. In accordance with Board of Regents policy, it has been reviewed by the Graduate Council and recommended for established status. The purpose of the Advanced Certificate in Women’s Studies is to teach students to apply feminist methodologies, analysis and problem-solving to their chosen academic fields and to learn to integrate scholarship on gender into their chosen professions.

The program provides an integrated educational experience and guides students to examine the factors that affect the status of women across cultures and through time; critique and analyze theories and assumptions about women from various disciplines; contribute to the reformulation
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of social knowledge; and understand the usefulness of gender as an analytical tool in a variety of disciplines.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
The Advanced Certificate in Women’s Studies was granted provisional status by the Board of Regents in 2000. Board of Regents Policy 5-1(a) provides that all new academic programs, once approved, shall have provisional status until a review is conducted. Reviews are initiated once a full cycle of graduates has been completed.

Since its inception, the program has admitted 35 students and graduated 20. This value-added program provides students completing M.A or Ph.D. degrees in a wide range of fields with the opportunity for rigorous study of gender, transnational feminist studies, and globalization, with a unique Hawaii, Asia, Pacific focus. Applications and enrollment have exceeded expectations. After one year of 22 actively enrolled students, enrollment has been limited to approximately 15 certificate students.

The program benefits students from a vast array of fields including Philosophy, American Studies, Political Science, Sociology, Dance, Anthropology, and Educational Psychology by providing them rigorous scholarly feminist analysis. Many certificate students are doing theses or dissertations with strong gender studies or even women’s studies emphasis within their primary departments, so faculty from the Women’s Studies Program often serve on thesis and dissertation committees as outside members, as well.

The certificate program has been reviewed by the Council of Chief Academic Officers and the Graduate Council which recommends it be granted permanent status. Based on these reviews, we recommend that the Advanced Certificate in Women’s Studies be granted established status.

ACTION RECOMMENDED:
I recommend that the Board of Regents grant established status to the Advanced Degree in Women’s Studies in the College of Social Sciences at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, to be effective upon Board approval.

Attachments

c: Interim Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board Pang  
   Vice Chancellor Ostrander  
   Interim Vice Chancellor Johnsrud