

Women's and Gender Studies

Undergraduate Review

Year 2 (2020) - FAR Implementation Report

(reviewed 2017/18)

Recommendation #1

The review team recommends that the WGST program further maximize its curricular resources by identifying some efficiencies in its course offerings and curricular structure. In particular, we recommend some revisions to the architecture of the program as a way to increase student recruitment especially at the 200-level, enhance flexibility in core and elective courses, maximize the teaching capacity of (currently very limited) core faculty members, and enable formalizing the existing involvement in graduate education.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

Implementation Plan (1st Priority)

Responsible for approving: Centre
 Responsible for resources: Centre
 Responsible for implementation: Centre
 Timeline: Dean of Social Sciences to report by the end of academic year 2018/19

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Change the curricular structure and architecture of all undergraduate programs.	WGST	C		

Comments 2019:

This is being achieved by removing restrictions on 2nd year courses and broadening the lists of courses that may be chosen for degree requirement to be met at all levels. Efficiencies in course offerings are being identified which may result in the removal and/or the addition of new course work. WGST is creating a 400 level course that may be used as a 500 level elective for graduate students in order to formalize the existing involvement in graduate education. These changes will be evident in the 2019-2020 undergraduate calendar.

Comments 2020:

WGST continues to assess the undergraduate program and will continue to seek ways to formalize involvement with graduate education.

*On Target (T), On Hold (H), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Ongoing (O)

Recommendation #2

The review team agrees with the WGST Self-Study Report’s argument that the program needs new faculty lines to ensure its continued viability as a standalone unit. We thus support the request for a new tenure track hire for the program, as soon as possible.

We also recommend that the program and the administration explore the option of another cross-appointment between WGST and another unit—depending on the direction in which the program decides to move.

In the short term, we suggest that WGST explore how to formalize connections with faculty from other institutional locations, in order to lend stability to the program and its curriculum.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to explore ways to formalize connections with faculty from other institutional locations to be accepted. ARC considers the recommendation for additional faculty positions to lie outside the Committee’s jurisdiction and expects that the Department will proceed through normal channels of advocacy for these resources.

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)

Responsible for approving: Centre
 Responsible for resources: Centre
 Responsible for implementation: Centre
 Timeline: Dean of Social Sciences to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Actions*	Responsibility	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Seek approval to advertise a tenure-track position and hire a new faculty member.	WGST	C		
Action #2 Seek out ways to connect with faculty from other institutions and evaluating the needs of WGST in relation to the cross-appointment of faculty.	WGST	T	T	

Comments 2019:

(Action #1) This advertised position resulted in a successful hire in April, 2019.

*On Target (T), On Hold (H), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Ongoing (O)

(Action #2) This is being carried out through consultations at the annual Women’s and Gender Studies meetings at SSHRC congress. We are assessing applications for cross-appointment to WGST from faculty members at Brock from other academic units.

Comments 2020:

WGST continues to seek affiliation with scholars through cross-appointments and as adjunct faculty members.

Recommendation #3

We are concerned about space for the WGST program—since space is always also about visibility. We thus recommend that the chair, whoever they are, always have space within the program, along with other faculty.

We also encourage the administration to work with the WGST program to ensure adequate office for WGST TAs—the people doing some of the integral work to curriculum delivery and successful student learning.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be not accepted as it lies outside of the Committee’s jurisdiction. It is expected that the Department will proceed through normal channels of advocacy for space resources.

Implementation Plan

Recommendation not accepted.

Comments 2019:

WGST is advocating for enhanced space through the regular governance channels.

Comments 2020:

No new comments for 2020.

Recommendation #4

We recommend that the WGST program continue its work in promoting WGST and enhancing its visibility on campus, including updating its website and information cards, etc. when appropriate. It might also consider working with current students to establish a WGST student union to assist, in a more formal way, with some of the student recruitment and promotional work, in that students, like alumni, can often act as the most important ambassadors of an undergraduate WGST program.

ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation that the Centre continue its work in promoting WGST and enhancing its visibility on campus to be accepted. It is expected that the Centre will proceed through normal channels of advocacy for staff resources

Implementation Plan (2nd Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Centre
Responsible for resources:	Centre
Responsible for implementation:	Centre

Timeline:

Dean of Social Sciences to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Actions	Responsibility	Year One*	Year Two	Year Three
Action #1 Update the WGST website.	WGST	C		
Action #2 Update WGST social medial platforms.	WGST	T	T	

Comments 2019:

WGST continues to update print and web based materials on an on-going basis.

Comments 2020:

WGST continues to update print and web based materials on an on-going basis. WGST will develop resources for students to support online learning that can be accessed through webpages and course Sakai sites.

*On Target (T), On Hold (H), Delayed (D), Complete (C), Ongoing (O)