

INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTH BEND
EXTERNAL PROGRAM/ACCREDITATION REVIEW
SUMMARY

Unit/Program: Women's Studies
Reviewer: Judith Kegan Gardiner
Year of Site Visit: 2007

Unit/Program Strengths Cited by Reviewer:

- The program has a strong reputation on campus for excellent teaching and vigorous improvement of campus life.
- The Mission Statement and Program Goals are appropriate, and the teaching, research, and service activities of the faculty are consistent with the mission.
- The most significant accomplishment of the Women's Studies Program since the last review is the establishment of a major.
- The Women's Resource Center provides a hospitable, centrally located physical space for student and faculty gatherings.
- The five courses that comprise the core of the major requirements are well planned, current, and appropriate.
- The program has enjoyed strong faculty support enabling it to undertake extensive tasks in the past.
- The mechanisms described for assessing student learning seem adequate.
- The program is very active in providing programming for the entire campus.

Reviewers' Recommendations for Continued Unit/Program Improvement:

- It is important to replace Professor McNeal when she retires with a person in Women's Studies, and diversity should be a goal in faculty recruitment.
- More faculty should be recruited to teach Women's Studies courses.
- More courses are needed including those centering on sexuality studies and gay and lesbian studies and those with a minority focus.
- The program needs to recruit more majors and minors, which might help the enrollments in the practicum course.
- WOST should explore the possibility of obtaining Future Faculty Teaching Fellows from the IUB Gender Studies Program.
- Links with community and alumnae groups could be strengthened.
- Protection of junior faculty from heavy service commitments would make it easier to establish the scholarship record required for tenure.
- A standardized student evaluation form should be developed for Women's Studies courses.
- A standardized Women's Studies advising form should be developed.