

**SPECIAL REPORT**  
of the  
**RULES COMMITTEE**  
concerning  
**A GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ADVANCED FEMINIST STUDIES**

Presented at the  
451<sup>st</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate  
May 17, 1990

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

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During the Fall Semester 1988, Women's Studies proposed the creation of a Graduate Minor in Advanced Feminist Studies at the University. The rationale for this proposal was twofold: 1) to enable graduate students to integrate Feminist Studies into their own departmental graduate programs and 2) to certify these students (for example, by notations on their transcripts) as knowledgeable in Feminist Studies.

As proposed by Women's Studies, the Graduate Minor in Advanced Feminist Studies would consist of a core of four courses offered by the Graduate faculty of Women's Studies and would include a writing requirement (that is, either a research paper or the incorporation of some aspect of Feminist Studies into a doctoral dissertation).

The concept of a Graduate Minor in Advanced Feminist Studies has been endorsed by a number of departments (including the Departments of Anthropology, Communication, Economics, English, History, Management, and Spanish and Portuguese) as well as by the Dean of the Graduate School and the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Fine Arts.

On March 6, 1989, the Graduate Council of the Faculty Senate received a report from its Academic Standards Committee that supported the principle of the proposed minor. The Academic Standards Committee noted that although no formal mechanism currently existed for the Graduate School to institute minors, in the Committee's opinion, any graduate program at the University was free to establish a secondary area of concentration. The Graduate Council discussed the report, debated the question of a minor in Advanced Feminist Studies, and voted to endorse "the content and concept of the proposed secondary area of concentration" in Advanced Feminist Studies. The Graduate Council, however, made no formal recommendation regarding graduate minors per se.

The Faculty Senate's Program and Budget Council approved the proposal for a Graduate Minor in Advanced Feminist Studies at its meeting of February 8, 1990.

Although students can earn a "Certificate in Advanced Graduate Studies" in the School of Education, there is no other mechanism for establishing minors or of awarding "Concentrations," "Certificates" or "Letters of Specialization" (similar to that at the Undergraduate level – see Special Report of the Academic Matters Council concerning Approval of Undergraduate Programs, Sen. Doc. No. 89-054 -- at the Graduate level. In the opinion of the Rules Committee, this puts the University in a rather awkward position. It is for this reason that the Rules Committee has charged the Graduate Council to conduct a full investigation of the advisability of establishing University-wide policy on Graduate Minors or of formalizing some other means of recognizing concentrations or specializations at the Graduate level. The Graduate Council has been asked to have its Special Report ready for Faculty Senate action before the end of the Fall Semester 1991.

In the meantime, the Rules Committee recommends to the Faculty Senate that it approve an interim Graduate Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies (which is modeled on the undergraduate certificate described in Sen. Doc. No. 89-054 pending disposition of the Special Report from the Graduate Council on Graduate Minors and/or Certificates.

It is therefore:

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate approve on an interim basis the Graduate Certificate in  
66-90 Advanced Feminist Studies as set forth in Sen. Doc. No. 90-059.

**NOTE:**

Sen. Doc. No. 92-018 "Annual Report of the Graduate Council for 1990-1991," Section II. MAJOR COUNCIL ACTION: (1) The Council voted against any general policy on graduate minors until a specific minor was proposed by a department or program (11/2/1990).