Approved by the Board of Trustees

July 20, 2023

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Board Meeting

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# ESTABLISH THE WOMEN AND GENDER IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES PROGRAM AS A PERMANENT CENTER, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, URBANA

**Action:** Establish the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program as a Permanent Center, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**Funding:** No impact anticipated

The chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and vice president, University of Illinois System, with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate, recommends approval of a proposal from College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program as a permanent center.

Originally established as an office in 1980, significant changes have occurred solidifying the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program (WGGP) that justify permanent center status. Since its inception, WGGP has supported research, outreach, and education concentrated on understanding of gender equity and inequities that affect individual and community capabilities globally. WGGP is the administrative home of the graduate minor in Gender Relations in International Development, which was formally approved in 2011, and a joint undergraduate certificate in Global Health with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Global Studies, which was established in 2016. WGGP’s advancement efforts resulted in two endowed, full-year graduate fellowships and one endowed graduate research award, and fellowship offerings have expanded to include language support through annual offering of multiple graduate language fellowships. A gift by WGGP’s founding director permanently endowed the annual programing series and the number of WGGP’s faculty affiliates has more than doubled, which is a reflection of its campus-wide profile and reach.

Through a multidisciplinary approach, WGGP supports research, education, and public engagement that highlights the centrality of gender in shaping the genuine opportunities open to individuals and communities. A recent expansion supports language instruction reflecting the link between issues of language and equity within cultural contexts. The significance of WGGP’s engagement is reflected in advancement success. A $1.6 million gift endowed the program’s novel, innovative, interdisciplinary, cross-campus and public engagement efforts, while three separate major gifts established fellowships and a grant award for graduate students working on issues of gender and development. WGGP builds and sustains a scholarly community with interest in the study of gendered impact of policies and gendered dimensions of issues arising in communities around the world. The reach and scope of the community is reflected in the program’s 100 faculty affiliates from 12 colleges and schools.

A companion action item seeks permanent status of the Illinois Global Institute (IGI), which currently has temporary institute status. WGGP is one of the constitutive units within IGI. Additional companion action items seek permanent status for two other constitutive units within IGI, the Center for Global Studies (CGS) and the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (CSAMES). Permanent status will align WGGP, CGS, and CSAMES with the other centers housed within the IGI (the Center for African Studies; the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies; the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies; the European Union Center; the Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies; and the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center). WGGP, like all units within IGI, is organized around the principle that a public university has a responsibility to foster global understanding and the capacities for global engagement.

Establishment as a permanent center does not impact WGGP’s funding, faculty affiliations (faculty affiliates have zero percent appointments with WGGP), students, or facilities. Permanent center status, which will put WGGP on level ground with the other IGI centers, is strongly supported by the executive committee, faculty affiliates, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which houses IGI.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The executive vice president and vice president for academic affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further senate jurisdiction is involved.

The president of the University of Illinois System recommends approval.

This action is subject to further review by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.