





*Brooklyn's Only Community College*

DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Dr. Stuart Parker, Chairperson

## **Memo**

Date: 9/27/2021  
From: Stuart Parker  
Red Washburn  
Re: Proposed WGS Name Change

Among many of its recommendations, the recent program review of the Women's and Gender Studies states,

“We recommend that the name of the program/unit be changed to women's, gender, and sexuality studies in order to be consistent with the naming trends across the country. Such renaming reflects the evolving nature of the field which, though originally called “women's studies” and centered on women's experiences of patriarchy, was never limited to women apart from a complex web of power relations inclusive of gender and sexuality as major approaches to the study of women. Furthermore, WGSS is currently grounded in intersectional theory that methodologically insists on a focus on gender and sexuality *as read through* race, class, ethnicity, dis/ability and other systems of structural oppression. Though those scholars and teachers working in the field understand that “sexuality” has long been implicitly included under this umbrella, within the last 10-20 years most programs have sought to make the expansive boundaries of the field more explicit by adding an “S” for “sexuality.” Changing the name of the program confirms and clarifies the point that considerations of sexuality as a category of experience imbued with political meaning, sex as a constructed category, sexual orientation, sexual identity, and sexual politics are not just relevant but are central to our field.”

Therefore, we are submitting this application for a Name Change of the concentration to **Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies** for Curriculum Committee approval.