DATE: October 10, 2014

TO: Dr. Katherine G. Aiken
   Interim Provost and Executive Vice President

FROM: Sandra Reineke, Coordinator, Women’s Studies Program

SUBJECT: Minor Change Notification Request

I write to request a name change for the Women’s Studies Program in the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences (CLASS) after the program’s academic minor name was changed last year from “Women’s Studies” to “Women’s and Gender Studies.” The State Board of Education approved the academic minor name change in December 2013. Changing the academic program’s name to “Women’s and Gender Studies” will provide a more accurate reflection of the academic minor’s content and intent.

- Women’s Studies Program, change to Women’s and Gender Studies Program

Mission and Core Themes:

The Women’s Studies Program is an integral part of the University of Idaho’s mission to further human and economic development, civic understanding, and engagement through teaching, research, and creative activity in the state of Idaho and beyond. This academic program is part of CLASS’s interdisciplinary programs, which foster academic knowledge and applied research in multiple areas of study. Specifically, the interdisciplinary academic minor in women’s and gender studies allows students to develop critical thinking skills in relation to scholarly pursuit of knowledge about women, men, the history of feminism, and the cultural construction of gender and sexual identity. Furthermore, coursework and research leading to this academic minor allow students to become more informed world citizens and indicate to future employers that they are knowledgeable about important work-world issues such as equity and diversity. In short, the new name, “Women’s and Gender Studies Program,” will more accurately reflect the inclusive nature of the academic minor’s content and intent to examine the social construction of cultural variables such as “gender.”

There are no budgetary changes associated with the name change as no curriculum or program change is involved. In addition, all of the program’s advertisement is based online and thus there is no cost associated with changing the name.

This change will be effective summer 2015.