RESOLVED: That the Women’s Studies (WMS) Program be elevated to the status of the Department of Women’s Studies.

RESOLVED: That the Department of Women’s Studies and its programs, Department Chair, faculty, staff, and students be supported fully as a Department.

RESOLVED: That the Department of Women’s Studies chair receive twelve month support by way of leadership and administrative training and professional development opportunities (both at CSUDH and at the CSU Office of the Chancellor (CO)), department chair reassigned time, chair’s salary, and appropriate department staff to be able to carry out their duties.

RESOLVED: That the Department of Women’s Studies program have appropriate support staff, hiring lines, and office space to be able to function effectively.

RESOLVED: That the ASCSUDH distribute this resolution to the: President, Provost, Vice Provost, VP Administration and Finance, AVP of Faculty Affairs and Development, HR Director, Deans, Academic Resource Managers, Faculty, Staff, and Associated Students Inc.

RATIONALE: The Women’s Studies program currently offers a BA degree, meets all the criteria, and has gone through the process to stand as an official department per the Academic Affairs Policy 21-08, based on EPC Resolution 21-09.

Currently the program and its faculty program coordinator function as a department and department chair. However, this is without the status of and support that departments and chairs receive. As such, the program and its faculty program coordinator are carrying the workload of a full department such as Chair duties but lacks the benefits, chairs training and professional development opportunities (both at CSUDH and at the CSU Office of the Chancellor (CO)), reassigned time, and chair’s salary for the accompanying duties. This creates an equity issue that is resolved by elevating the program to a department and supporting it fully.
Further, the WMS mission, offerings, and pedagogies are integral to the effective functioning of CSUDH as a comprehensive urban university serving a student population that is amongst the most diverse in the nation. As stated by the program on its webpage “Women’s Studies explores the experiences of women in cultures around the world. This program is interdisciplinary and examines the social construction of gender and sexual differences with an emphasis on women’s experiences. Women’s Studies seeks to acknowledge and understand how gender relates to ethnicity, race, social class, religion, sexuality, nationality, globalization and other factors that shape everyday life. Students in the program acquire the knowledge and skills to understand the history and structures of gender inequalities and how to advocate for women’s rights and freedoms.”

CSUDH’s Women's Studies Program unequivocally affirms that Black Lives Matter, and we will continuously ensure that our intellectual and activist work reflects this insight. Our curriculum has been, and will continue to be, grounded in decolonizing pedagogy; the works and theories of women of color; and queer, non-binary, and gender-expansive voices and worldviews. White supremacy is our nation’s greatest ill, and the feminist movement has not escaped its contagion. As we continue our work to imagine and cultivate a more just world, we recognize that our labor is aligned with, and indebted to, the critical intellectual, emotional, and physical work that countless others, particularly Black women and other women of color, have done before us. Our faculty and curriculum acknowledge this history while working toward a more inclusive movement to end sexism in tandem with intersecting facets of oppression including race, class, sexuality, ethnicity, and religion. As feminists, we honor this history of resistance and social justice, and are committed to reflect it in our pedagogy...Faculty in the Women’s Studies Program are committed to teaching practices grounded in anti-racist, feminist pedagogy. Our courses are student-centered in the spirit of Adrienne Rich’s “Claiming an Education,” where faculty and students take equal responsibility for knowledge production and sharing. This means that in each of our courses, there is an emphasis on the different standpoints and cultural knowledge everyone brings to class. This commitment to anti-racist instruction carries over to student advisement, which is holistic to encompass academic success, personal growth, and professional development.”

Additionally, having WMS as a full-fledged department at CSUDH is fitting with the origins and history of WMS as a national and international field of academic study, originating in spring 1970 in the California State University system (CSU) at San Diego State University. It is also consonant with the WMS offerings across the CSU with 16 of 23 universities offering WMS as a standalone or part of a broader field of study, and nine offering WMS programs.

For these reasons, the Education Policy Committee (EPC) and Senate Executive Committee (Exec) recommend that the Women’s Studies Program be elevated to a Department effective immediately. The Education Policy Committees and the Senate Executive Committee of the Academic Senate, California State University, Dominguez Hills are unanimously in favor of the Women’s Studies Program being elevated to the Department of Women’s Studies.