**TO: Committee on Planning and Priorities**

**FROM: Steering Committee**

**RE: Graduate Certificate in Women’s and Gender Studies**

**DATE: October 6, 2009**

Background: The Department of Women’s and Gender Studies has sent a proposal to Steering to establish a Graduate Certificate in Women’s and Gender Studies, which would include the creation of new graduate courses in Women’s and Gender Studies. Since this proposal raises some general issues and may set precedents, the Steering Committee thinks these issues should be considered by the Committee on Planning and Priorities (CPP) prior to our sending the proposal to the Committee on Academic Programs (CAP). First, this Graduate Certificate would be a new type of program at TCNJ, i.e. a non-degree, post-baccalaureate program not linked to an external professional certification or licensure. Second, this Graduate Certificate would be offered in a Department that does not have a graduate degree program. Third, this proposal would result in the creation of graduate courses by a Department that grants only undergraduate degrees.

Charge: We ask the CPP to consider the following in terms of the mission and the priorities of the College : 1) expansion of graduate course offerings at TCNJ, 2) the creation of graduate courses in Departments without a graduate degree program, including the impact on the undergraduate education mission, 3) the creation of non-degree, post-baccalaureate certificates not linked to an external professional certification or licensure, and whether a new approval process for such certificates would be needed.

Timetable: CPP is asked to complete their consideration of these issues and report to Steering by November 30, 2009.