

## *Editorial*

Two of the major essays in this issue deal with women's studies and the curriculum. The article by Maureen Pagaduan is on an existing program which she critiques from the perspective of her experience in women's organizing and in teaching WID courses at the U.P. The other essay by Priscelina Legasto suggests ways in which women's studies can cross disciplines and puts it in the broader context of cultural studies.

They reflect a major concern of the University Center for Women's Studies which, with the help of representatives from the various disciplines, is engaged in examining various curricula of the university, including the General Education curriculum, to help correct any gender imbalance that may exist therein. Beyond this, the UCWS and other concerned academics would also like to see gender equality become a more general concern in the University's academic programs.

It is a fact that female students outnumber male students in this university. For that reason, a curricular review is imperative to see to it that the curriculum is responsive to the needs and expectations of its women students and adequate to prepare them for fuller participation and increased responsibility in social transformation and national development.

The gender imbalance assumed by feminist academics might be questioned by some of their colleagues who would not agree that sexism is rampant in language, that women are invisible in history and forgotten in philosophy and that there may be gender issues to be surfaced in the pedagogical approaches to the hard sciences. Yet increasing research on women in the Philippines may lead us to question traditional assumptions and to consider alternative viewpoints as well as new categories of analysis in the study of society and culture. This in turn calls for a curriculum that gives a fuller and fairer account of human, specifically Filipino experience.

Moreover, the need for unity in our country makes it important that we sensitize all our students to the gender issues that have a divisive effect on Philippine society. This will enable them to work for a resolution of these issues so that all Filipinos, both female and male, can work together for the common goals of justice, progress and peace.

The *Review* therefore wholeheartedly supports the move for gender balance in the University curriculum and hopes to contribute to its popularization by coming out regularly with articles that will continue to investigate, present and address issues and concerns on the dimensions and complexities of gender equality, particularly in the Philippine context. **TBK and JL**