

Executive Committee of General Faculties Council

8.

An Outline of the Issues

Women's Research Centre: Recommendation from the GFC Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC)

Re

ACTION

REQUIRED: To consider PPC's recommendation that the attached proposal for the establishment of a Women's Research Centre be endorsed subject to the availability of funding.

Note 1: ADC endorsed this proposal on June 22, 1988.

PPC endorsed this proposal on July 14, 1988 subject to the availability of funding.

The Planning and Priorities Committee is responsible for making recommendations to General Faculties Council on the establishment of new centres.

Note 2: On May 31, 1988, Associate Vice-President (Research) Scarfe wrote to Dr. Assheton-Smith with respect to funding sources for the proposed Centre. A copy of this letter is attached as pages 8.18 - 8.19. Dr. Scarfe refers to WISEST and to the Women's Studies Program in the Faculty of Arts and information concerning these programs is attached.

Note 3: On June 23, 1988, the Vice-President Academic of Athabasca University wrote a letter of support for the proposed Women's Research Centre; a copy of that letter is attached as page 8.24.

Note 4: The terms of reference and a list of members of the Women's Studies Committee are attached as pages 8.16 and 8.17.

The Draft Minute of ADC's June 22, 1988 discussion is attached as pages 8.25 - 8.28.

A draft of the PPC minute will be distributed shortly.

EASS/lem

July 20, 1988

(For the Executive Committee Meeting of August 8, 1988)



8.1

to: Dr. Marilyn Assheton-Smith
Department of Educational Foundations

date: May 17, 1988

our file

from: Vice-President (Academic)

your file

subject: Proposal for a Women's Research Centre



Dear Dr. Assheton-Smith:

Thank you for submitting the revised Proposal for a Women's Research Centre. As I mentioned to you, I have not had an opportunity of discussing this with Dr. Paul at Athabasca University, but will do so before it is discussed by the Academic Development Committee. Given our respective calendars, I don't think it will be possible to discuss this until the middle of June.

By copy of this letter to Mrs. Evelyn Phillips, Coordinator of the Academic Development Committee, I am requesting that she add it to an ADC meeting scheduled for mid-June. As I mentioned to you on the telephone, funds have been distributed for this year and I doubt very much that any university funding will be possible in the 1988-89 academic year. Nevertheless, this would not prevent the matter from being discussed by the appropriate university bodies. Since there are space and financial implications, it would go from ADC to PPC.

Please extend to the members of the committee my congratulations on putting together an excellent proposal.

Yours sincerely,


J. Peter Meekison

JPM/dg

c.c. Mrs. E. Phillips ✓
University Secretariat

8.2

PROPOSAL FOR
A
WOMEN'S RESEARCH CENTRE
JOINTLY SPONSORED BY
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
AND
ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

The Vice-President's (Academic) Advisory Committee on Women's Studies

The University of Alberta

Edmonton, Alberta

March 22, 1988

Table of Contents

1. Background	1
2. Research Objectives of the Centre	2
3. Rationale for a Women's Research Centre	3
4. Research Agenda	4
5. Structure of the Centre	6
5.1 Administrative and Working Organization	6
5.2 Space and facilities	7
6. Finances	7
7. Concluding Comments	11
Appendix: Selected List of On-Going Women's Research Topics and Researchers	12

1. Background

This document will present a proposal for the establishment of a Women's Research Centre sponsored jointly by Athabasca University and the University of Alberta. This research centre will function as a focal point for feminist research in both universities and in the larger community.

Feminist research is defined as research for women, rather than research on women or by women. This implies a clear recognition of a value orientation, an orientation to improving the situation of women in our society and in the world community. However, it does not necessarily imply applied research. Much of feminist research challenges existing models of knowledge in the university and proposes alternatives to those models; such research is clearly research "for women" in spite of the fact it occurs within disciplines such as philosophy or literature or anthropology or other fields of primary knowledge.

In that feminist research is "for" women rather than "on" women, its domain extends to many areas of study. It may include analyses of political institutions, economic structures, ecological relations, or dozens of other phenomena which impact upon women. It differs from other research in these same areas by the constant question, how does this phenomenon or current knowledge about it affect women? Or how is this phenomenon experienced by women?

Margrit Eichler provides a succinct description of such research:

At the most fundamental level, feminist scholarship is committed to understanding and improving the situation of women. It starts from the premise that all scholarship is necessarily value-oriented and that more often than not a lack of feminist consciousness results in sexist theories and descriptions. Identifying and criticizing sexist elements in the existing literature is therefore an important part of feminist work. Once a critique has been achieved, and basic data have been collected, new concepts and models are created, either to express female experiences, or to encompass the experiences of both sexes. The latter can only be achieved after the former has been partially done. In either case, feminist work eventually gropes towards a new epistemology which allows for the adequate understanding of female and male life (1985:624).

By implication, feminist research and analysis not only critiques knowledge within disciplines but often transcends the boundaries of disciplines.

Feminist scholarship is well represented at the University of Alberta and Athabasca University, through the teaching, publishing and research of individual academics in various departments and Faculties. Nonetheless there is a need for a support system which could be provided through a formalized institute or research centre. Such a centre would encourage cross-fertilization and collaboration and would provide a mechanism for obtaining research grants. It would also establish a visibility for feminist scholarship which would attract students and international

visiting scholars.

To begin to address these needs, a number of steps have already been taken by the vice-president's coordinating committee on women's studies. For example, throughout the 1987-88 academic year potential funding sources have been explored and a number of seminars have been sponsored. In these seminars, feminist researchers in the universities and the community have gathered to present and analyze on-going research. It is time for this foundation to be developed into a formal research structure. We propose then that the two Universities establish a Women's Research Centre to enrich and facilitate the work of scholars doing feminist studies on these campuses and to facilitate collaboration between academic women and community-based women in the development of knowledge.

2. Research Objectives of the Centre

The centre would have the following objectives:

- a) to provide a centre for critical disciplinary and interdisciplinary feminist research open to university and community researchers.
- b) to contribute to the building of a knowledge base in women's studies, especially on topics particularly pertinent to women of Alberta, Western Canada and the North.
- c) to continually develop and reassess feminist research methodologies, especially interdisciplinary methodologies.
- d) to make research results accessible, especially to those involved in university teaching, to community women's groups and to government agencies and departments with social policy mandates.

In addition the research centre would:

- a) provide an infrastructure to facilitate the research of academics, students, and women's groups and provide a mutually supportive environment for feminist research.
- b) provide a structure for developing funding proposals, bringing together researchers and potential research funds, and receiving and administering funds for women's research.
- c) provide a home for visitors engaged in feminist research (for example, academics on sabbatical or study leaves, independent researchers on research grants, researchers involved in large-scale projects for community groups)

3. Rationale for a Women's Research Centre

It is apparent that women's research centres within universities contribute both to the ability of those universities to acquire funds for related research and to the development of a critical mass of feminist researchers in academic communities. The best known and most obvious example in Canada today is the work currently done at OISE by scholars such as Margrit Eichler, Dorothy Smith, Mary O'Brien and Jeri Wine. Although these academics have quite different theoretical orientations, they complement and challenge each others work precisely because of their focus within feminism and because they work from the same institutional setting. This setting is a graduate school only, and resembles more closely a research structure than a standard university programme. In fact there has been no equivalent development of research at the University of Toronto in spite of the fact there are interested scholars there. OISE scholars currently hold well over one million dollars in SSHRC research grants for feminist research. We believe that a research centre at these two Alberta Universities could not only do as well, but could draw on a much wider potential for interdisciplinary research than OISE is able to do.

Other research centres and institutes in Canada further suggest the importance of such institutions for facilitating women's research. Mount Saint Vincent's Institute for the Study of Women has developed projects in women and development and received significant funds from CIDA, Universite Laval has formed the GREMF (Groupe de recherche multidisciplinaire feministe) and L'Universite du Quebec a Montreal has created GIERF (Groupe interdisciplinaire pour l'enseignement et la recherche feministes) to both support and identify funds for research. In the case of GIERF a major contractual arrangement has been made with Relais Femmes, an independent association of women's groups in Montreal, to ensure collaborative research can be done between academic women and women working in the community.

There are no equivalent structures in Western Canada (there is a national Women's Research Centre in Vancouver, but it does not have a base in any University). There are rumours and beginnings of other centres, but Athabasca University and the University of Alberta could now take the lead in developing a centre which would both benefit by the kind of work being done in eastern Canada and identify new directions for women's research. In particular, a joint centre of the nature proposed here would have a number of benefits for both institutions and for women in the surrounding communities.

A joint research centre would build upon the experience the two universities had in working together to develop the proposal for the Western Canadian Chair in Women's Studies. Each university would bring to the centre different and special strengths. The University of Alberta has relatively large numbers of active feminist scholars, dispersed throughout many faculties. It has a reputation as a world class university, and would bring to this partnership academics working within that tradition and reputation. Athabasca University is an internationally recognized university specializing in distance education. Because of its distance education mandate it has developed expertise in delivering education to groups which do not normally have access to post-secondary institutions, such as northerners and women in rural and isolated communities. Many of the methods used for distance education can be adapted and used in collaborative research with women's groups, or in disseminating research findings.

4. Research Agenda

Although the exact program by which research centre objectives might be achieved will vary, depending on the funding and the researchers who become involved in the institute, we would like to describe here some possible directions which the research might follow. A specific research agenda (in the sense of topics for research) would not be set out in advance for the institute; rather associates of the institute would bring their individual and existing women's research interests into the institute. An appendix is attached listing the research currently being done by members of the committee and a few other academic members of the two universities; this provides the clearest example of the kind of work which would be carried out but at a higher level as a result of interaction within the centre.

The fall and winter presentations of research have included such diverse topics as women's depression, becoming a mother, research which is preparation for doing documentary films, research on education and employment of Indian and Metis women, women's biographies (both being written as academic work per se and being written as part of developing an understanding of the history of family members), and explorations of women's consciousness.

But what are other possible projects which we could see in the future? A project might begin with any researcher, so it could be in medicine, nursing, law, science, literature, psychology, or in applied concerns related to rape crisis centres, battered women's shelters, women and pensions and so on, but the following are possibilities.

1. Among the women who have been active in Alberta history probably the "famous five" are the best known. But these five women represent but a tiny fraction of women who have tried to create social change through political action of various forms, from organized protest groups to lobbying governments and participating in political parties. One major direction for interdisciplinary research would be to analyze this activity, both as a historical and contemporary phenomenon, to determine the causes and consequences of such activity and to propose alternative models for political action. At least some of this research could be in the form of "action research" as that term is used by the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, as women actively engaged in trying to create some political change could participate at the same time with academics in a reflective research process.

2. As women's groups and governments identify major issues of concern, and funds are made available for related research, some particular issues could form the basis for long-term research in the institute. In these cases, it might be preferable to hire research staff specifically for such work. For example, there is currently a concern with child-care arrangements in Canada and proposals to fund large-scale research in this area. Violence against women has received similar public attention, as have economic factors influencing women's lives (employment discrimination, the structure of pension arrangements and so on). Although this research, by its nature, must be applied in its focus, it would be greatly enhanced by occurring in an environment in which theoretical issues are raised.

3. In the literary and fine arts areas there is much research today on the language used in relation to women, women's language in poetry and prose, and the images of women in film and art. There are obvious relationships between this work and concerns of women active in the community about pornography, violence against women, and the sexual objectification of women. An interdisciplinary women's research institute would enable the various researchers working in all of these areas to both do their within discipline work and to discuss their work with each other and with women attempting to impact on the situation in the community.

4. Michelle Harrison discusses PMS as a complex of symptoms related to women's menstrual cycle, but in her discussion she makes it quite clear that we do not know the relationship of PMS to social structure, for cross-cultural studies on menstrual cycles are extremely rare. That recognition which pervades her work, the recognition that physiological phenomena may well be deeply embedded in the gender structure of societies characterizes her research as feminist. It does not characterize it as interdisciplinary, for she herself focuses only on the medical aspects of the syndrome. In an interdisciplinary women's research institute in which a researcher was interested in this topic, we could work to bring her insight together with the research of sociologists and anthropologists into gender structuring and its impact on physiological phenomena. Such work does not necessarily require international research, for it can be done by research with women from religious enclaves such as Hutterites, women from various classes, and with women from minority cultural groups, to suggest but a few examples.

5. Women's groups in the community have a continuing need for what might be called small-scale research, or information gathering. The research centre would bring together these groups and graduate students who could do some of this work as part of their paper-writing and thesis work, possibly for a small fee paid to the student or as part of a research assistantship funded by the centre. Some of this work might well be done by undergraduate students in women's studies courses, enhancing their academic studies at the universities.

6. In the women's movement women are beginning to address issues of race, racism, and cultural differences. It is not the case that all women experience their situation as women in the same way, and for many women that means addressing problems of knowledge which are specific to their racial, ethnic, or cultural groups. The research centre would make it possible for this diversity of women's experience to be addressed by academic research, and addressed in a way which would be useful to the women involved.

7. Finally, research methodologies themselves would be an integral component of the centre's research agenda. Dr. Ursula Franklin, a metallurgist from the University of Toronto, argued while she was in Edmonton in 1987 that the most essential aspect of feminist research is that it continually takes context into account. That is, it is unlike analytical research, or the standard model of science, in which phenomena can be understood in terms of models which consist of ideal or logical relations. This set of ideas is not unique to feminist work but they are central to such work; the implication is that methodologies must continually make it possible to address context.

Dr. Franklin also remarked that, given the well-developed nature of quantitative methodologies in the sciences, and their basis within rigid disciplinary

boundaries. alternative methodologies based in multi-disciplinary work will initially seem inadequate to many people. She suggested some of our most important work may well be in clarifying and developing those methodologies as we do our work. When we begin a project the methodology might not always be clear, but it would then be essential to bring that methodology into focus before the work was completed and to make it a major topic for discussion. This kind of work may well be some of the most important research which is conducted at the centre, research which will enable us to address the epistemological and methodological questions raised by Eichler (above) and by others such as Allison Jagger and Sandra Harding.

5. Structure of the Centre

5.1. Administrative and Working Organization

We would recommend that the membership of the centre be made up of those academics and community women who are engaged in or interested in feminist research and that the administrative structure consist of a co-ordinating committee and a paid staff. The co-ordinating committee would be composed of seven members, two appointed from the membership by the appropriate vice-presidents of each of the sponsoring universities and three selected by centre members. Their terms would be for from two to four years, with terms staggered to ensure there was continuity on the committee, and they would elect the chairperson from among themselves. The selection process for this committee would ensure that there was reasonable representation from the various women's groups involved, including a diversity of faculties in the universities, women in the community, and students of the two universities.

The co-ordinating committee would report annually to the appropriate vice-president of each university, and would meet at least twice a year with the members of the centre to discuss the on-going research work and administration of the centre. Its terms of reference would include the acceptance of applications for membership in the institute and the development of research projects. The committee would also arrange for dissemination of research results, and further other objectives of the institute not clearly covered by these three tasks. Other terms of reference would be to ensure that the institute as a physical plant was kept operating, that an adequate budget was developed and followed, that additional funds (both from within and outside the university) were sought to ensure the work of the institute, and generally to oversee the research institute as a functioning administrative unit.

The volume of work which we anticipate at the centre would necessitate the hiring of at least two employees, a director and a secretary. The first should be an academic position; under the direction of the Research Coordinating Committee she would have responsibility for fund-raising, mediating between the universities and the community, establishing a high-profile centre which would be inviting to international scholars, and she would be an information resource to both researchers and to individuals and groups who want specific research done. She would also manage the day to day operations of the centre, develop annual budgets, and ensure that feminist researchers and community workers were knowledgeable about the centre. She would, of course, be expected to maintain

her own research agenda within the framework of the centre's general orientation.

The secretary would ensure that necessary accounting, paper work, and filing was done. She would also take responsibility for maintaining the centre in the absence of the director, and would carry out other duties which would assist researchers in their work. Other employees would be added as researchers and research assistants when funds were available, either through contracts, endowment funds, or university base budgeting.

5.2. Space and facilities

The space needs for the centre would be office space for researchers, and office for the director and the secretary. In addition, a seminar room would be needed for meetings of the centre, and there should be facilities for the preparation of coffee and snacks (especially for evening research meetings which will be necessary for community women to attend). There should be three to five research offices to get the centre started. We anticipate that these needs will expand, but it is difficult to say to what extent at the moment. Given the need to develop a particular milieu, a centre in which communication and cooperation are enhanced, one of the houses on the University of Alberta campus would be the preferred location.

As a first stage office equipment needs will include desks, filing cabinets, and book-cases for each person who has an office in the centre, and a seminar table with comfortable chairs. It will also be necessary to have telephones and a copying machine, and microcomputers with a connection to hyperbus for library search and use of the mainframes. The director and secretary would also work with microcomputers rather than typewriters, so that all information to be shared could be shared electronically, and so that researchers could request the secretary to edit and prepare for final printing files which had been prepared on disk. Ideally, there should be one laser printer on a computer network within the centre, and dot-matrix printers shared by every two computers. This kind of computer structure is now essential, we believe, for developing a research centre and for enabling such centres to communicate with others across the country (and the world). As research based in visual images rather than print media develops, there should be a slide projector, screen, television, videocamera and videocassette recorder.

We would keep copies of all research done within the centre, perhaps on disk and in hard-copy format, and make these copies available to interested people, but we would rely on the library systems of the two Universities and the Women's Resource Centre for maintaining books and documents. That is, when researchers have funds to buy books or documents which will not be personally owned, those books and documents will be purchased for the library systems or the resource room, or turned over to them after research is completed.

6. Finances

Financial arrangements for the centre will include initial start-up costs and annual operating costs. In the initial year (88-89), the research centre must be

furnished and equipped; while these requirements are costed in the budget we expect that they can be met from existing university pools and will not represent a substantial new cost to either institution.

With respect to operating costs, we propose that the two universities reach a cost-sharing arrangement to provide the research centre with an annual operating budget that would maintain a satisfactory minimal level of activity and provide the support needed to seek external funding. We are presenting here two budget scenarios, one which requests specific funding from the two universities, and one which indicates the larger plans for the centre based on a search for external funding.

Budget Scenario I, then, is a "bare-bones" budget which will permit us to proceed in a small way until we are able to access other sources of funding. It is a budget that takes into account the current fiscal realities facing the two universities.

Budget Scenario I

Year one (1988-89)

Capital equipment

Five desks, filing cabinets, and bookcases@1,200	6,000.00
Seminar table@1,500	1,500.00
Chairs, 30@150	4,500.00
Copying machine@5,000	5,000.00
Computers, 4@4,000	16,000.00
Laser printer	4,000.00
	<u>*Subtotal=\$37,000.00</u>

Operating Costs

Purchase of one course off for a Centre Director	4,500.00
Clerical assistance, 20 hours/week	11,000.00
Computer and telecommunications costs	600.00
Mailing and Materials	1,200.00
Space, including telephone, maintenance, etc.**	4,288.00
	<u>Subtotal=\$21,588.00</u>

* It is assumed that many of these items will come from in-kind donations from university pools. New resource outlays are unlikely.

** The space figure is based on using a Garneau area house on the University of Alberta campus, costed at \$2.68 per square foot for 1600 square feet.

Budget Scenario II

Budget scenario II is the cost of establishing and maintaining an excellent women's research centre, and is the target budget for the centre. However, in the

current fiscal environment, it will only be possible if funds can be raised from sources outside of the universities. We will approach various government departments, both provincial and federal, and we have been given some encouragement in regards to funding from these sources. In addition, as with other research institutes, major research grants will be sought to cover some of the costs, such as the funds proposed for research assistants and graduate research assistants. Finally, the private sector will be approached for donations, both to an endowment fund and to operating costs which may be matched by the province.

Year one (1988-89)

Capital equipment

Five desks, filing cabinets, and bookcases@1,200	6,000.00
Seminar table@1,500	1,500.00
Chairs, 30@150	4,500.00
Copying machine@5,000	5,000.00
Computers, 4@4,000	16,000.00
Laser printer	4,000.00
	<u>Subtotal=\$37,000.00</u>

Operating Costs

Director (incl benefits)	45,000.00
Executive/Secretary (incl benefits)	24,000.00
Mainframe computer and telecommunications costs	1,200.00
Telephone and Mailing	1,200.00
Materials (paper, photocopying, etc.)	2,400.00
Space, including telephone, maintenance, etc.	4,288.00
	<u>Subtotal=\$78,088.00</u>

Year Two

Capital Costs

Computers, 2@4,000	8,000.00
Networking costs (Phonenet or equivalent)	2,000.00
	<u>Subtotal=\$10,000.00</u>

Operating Costs

Director (incl benefits)	47,000.00
Executive/Secretary (incl benefits)	26,000.00
Research assistant, 1@30,000	30,000.00
Research assistants (grad students), 3@11,000	33,000.00
Mainframe computer and telecommunications	3,000.00
Telephone and Mailing	1,500.00
Materials	4,000.00
Space, including telephone, maintenance, etc.	4,288.00
	<u>Subtotal=\$148,788.00</u>

8.13

10

Year Three

Capital Costs

Computers, 2@4,000

8,000.00

Subtotal=\$8,000.00

Operating Costs

Director (incl benefits)

49,000.00

Executive Secretary (incl benefits)

28,000.00

Research assistant, 2@30,000

60,000.00

Research assistants (grad students), 6@11,000

66,000.00

Mainframe computer and telecommunications

4,800.00

Telephone and Mailing

2,000.00

Materials

8,000.00

Space, including telephone, maintenance, etc.

4,288.00

Subtotal=\$222,088.00

Year Four

Operating Costs

Director (incl benefits)

51,000.00

Executive Secretary (incl benefits)

30,000.00

Research assistant, 2@30,000

60,000.00

Research assistants (grad students), 10@11,000

110,000.00

Mainframe computer and telecommunications

6,000.00

Telephone and Mailing

2,500.00

Materials

9,000.00

Space, including telephone, maintenance, etc.

4,288.00

Subtotal=\$272,788.00

Year Five

Operating Costs

Director (incl benefits)

53,000.00

Executive/Secretary (incl benefits)

32,000.00

Research assistant, 2@30,000

60,000.00

Research assistants (grad students), 10@11,000

110,000.00

Mainframe computer and telecommunications

7,000.00

Telephone and Mailing

3,500.00

Materials

10,000.00

Space, including telephone, maintenance, etc.

4,288.00

Subtotal=\$279,788.00

7. Concluding Comments

Women's research is an exploding area of scholarly work, as any perusal of bookstore shelves and periodicals would suggest. The University of Alberta and Athabasca University have an excellent opportunity to develop a women's research centre which is unique in Canada, and which would make a major contribution to this relatively new area of knowledge. This could be a research centre which is both "world-class" in the best sense of that term and also firmly rooted in the social and historical milieu, and indeed the women, of this province. It would serve the needs of scholars to meet and share their work, the needs of graduate students to become familiar with and participate in research projects, and the needs of community groups for issue-focused applied research.

Appendix: Selected List of On-Going Women's Research Topics and Researchers

- Assheton-Smith, Marilyn. (University of Alberta) Native Women, Education and Employment.
- Austin, Lisa. (Graduate Student) Images of Women in Eighteenth Century Literature.
- Bergum, Vangie. (University of Alberta) On Becoming a Mother.
- Bray, Cathy and Marilyn Assheton-Smith. (University of Alberta) Computerizing Information Flow in Women's Organizations (Action Research).
- Cavanaugh, Cathy. (Athabasca University, Community) Irene Parlbys Story.
- Chown, Diana. (Community) The Life of Alice Chown.
- Coulter, Rebecca. (Athabasca University) Women's Bibliography; Work on Adolescent Women and Employment.
- Elliott, Bridget. (University of Alberta) Images of Women in Art.
- Holmgren, Marj. (University of Alberta) Women's Experience of Depression.
- Manneschmidt, Sybil. (Graduate Student) Menstrual Experience and Social Status of Women.
- Mott, Robyn. (Graduate Student) Premenstrual Changes as Experienced by Women.
- Penrod, Lynn. (University of Alberta) French Feminist Theory; Maternity, Madness and Mortality in French and French-Canadian Women's Writing.
- Potrebenko, Mary. (Community) Women and Health.
- Spronk, Barbara. (Athabasca University) Native Women and Education.
- Stewart, Leslie. (Graduate Student) The Denigration of Women in Sport.
- Williamson, Janice. (University of Alberta) Writing: Feminist Theory and Literary Criticism.

WOMEN'S STUDIES

- PURPOSE:
1. To gather information on the various initiatives re women's studies at the University of Alberta.
 2. To disseminate this information widely on campus and elsewhere as appropriate;
 3. To co-ordinate the development of new and existing activities to avoid duplication and work towards a balanced approach to the subject.
 4. To advise on policy at the University of Alberta with regard to the development of women's studies as an academic program; and
 5. To undertake liaison with other interested groups and individuals, where no other mechanism exists at the University of Alberta.

MEETINGS: At the call of the Chair.

MEMBERSHIP: Appointments made by letter from the Vice-President (Academic).

- Six members of the academic staff each for a 3 year term (2 new appointments per year); selected in such a way that no more than two come from the same Faculty and no more than one from each Department.

CHAIRMAN: Chairman to be selected for a one-year term from within this group, by the group.

Co-chairs for the term July 1, 1987 to June 30, 1988:

Dr. Marilyn Assheton-Smith, Educational Foundations
Dr. Rosemary Liburd, Student Counselling Services

permanent guest/observers

- Director of the Women's Program, Faculty of Extension
- Co-ordinator of Women's Programs, Athabasca University
- Director of Alberta Women's Secretariat or representative

ADVISER: Vice-President (Academic) or designate

REPORTS: Copy of annual report required:

- Vice-President (Academic)

Coordinating Committee on Women's Studies

November 24, 1957

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* Co-chairs



8.18

to: Dr. M. Assheton-Smith
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from: Dr. Brian L. Scarfe
 Associate Vice-President (Research)
 3-3 University Hall

subject: PROPOSAL FOR A WOMEN'S RESEARCH CENTRE

date: May 31 1988

our file:

your file:



I am responding to your telephone call of last week which referred to Dr. Meekison's letter to you of May 19th, 1988, with respect to funding sources for the proposed Women's Research Centre.

The proposal is an impressive one, which I am fully confident should meet with ADC support when it reaches that committee in June. I was, however, a little surprised that no direct connections were made with the existing Women's Studies program in the Faculty of Arts (see calendar 43.24 and 44.43), or to the important work of our standing committee -- Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology -- WISEST, which has received both moral and (ad hoc) financial support from the Office of the Vice-President (Research) over the past few years. Perhaps it would be useful for the key spokespersons for each of these groups to meet with Dr. Meekison and Dr. James and/or myself to ensure the complementarity of each of these initiatives, and to reduce the possibility of any jurisdictional conflicts.

As to external funding sources, I do not know whether you have approached SSHRCC directly, whether you have approached the Alberta Advisory Council on Women's Issues (Margaret Leahey, Chairperson), or whether you have approached the federal government. On the latter, it might well be that the Honourable Joe Clark would be the best contact, even though his ministry would not be directly involved. On the Alberta Advisory Council, direct support of a start-up nature might be forthcoming, but the Council's lobbying role with the appropriate Provincial Government departments could be very effective.

Like Dr. Meekison, I cannot be at all optimistic about the possibility of internal funding. Among other things, we have several outstanding examples of institutes and centres being created on this campus which ostensibly are not to cost the University money. They get created through the Academic Development

8.19

Dr. M. Assheton-Smith. - 2 - May 31st, 1988.

Committee process, but then repeatedly come to this office for on-going financial support. Three such examples are

the Centre for Gerontology,
the Research Institute for Comparative Literature,
and the Theoretical Physics Institute

and there are numerous other examples. As a general rule, therefore, we are somewhat concerned about the creation of new centres and institutes which do not have definite external funding sources identified as part of a coherent financial plan.

Even though the three centres previously mentioned are demonstrably doing quality work, it is not clear that we can guarantee any form of continued support for them in the current financial environment. The Central Research Fund is designed for peer-assessed research project support, and not (as a general rule) for on-going support of research overheads. It has, on occasion, provided limited one-shot seed money to encourage the start-up of new ventures.

In sum, I do not need convincing about the importance of establishing a first-rate Women's Research Centre. But I am concerned about the Centre's on-going financial support base. Should ADC approve the establishment of the Centre, we would consider a request for an initial start-up grant. Given our financial limitations, however, any such grant would come nowhere close to your year one operating budget even under Scenario I, and would, in no way, support your start-up capital budget. Unfortunately, this conclusion reflects a realistic appraisal of our financial situation, and in no way reflects upon the intrinsic importance of the establishment of a Women's Research Centre along the lines set out in your impressive proposal.

Best regards.

Brian L Scarfe

Dr. Brian L. Scarfe.

BLS/rml

cc: Dr. C.R. James
Dr. J.P. Meekison ✓

133. WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM IN THE FACULTY OF ARTS:
RECOMMENDATION FROM PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
(PPC)

Members were asked to consider a proposal for a Women's Studies Program in the Faculty of Arts.

The Secretary noted that new programs were considered in turn by ADC, PPC, the Executive Committee and General Faculties Council in advance of consideration by the Board of Governors.

On July 16, 1986 the proposal was endorsed by ADC, whose suggestions for clarification were incorporated in the proposal, which was considered on September 25 and November 10 by PPC and the Executive Committee respectively. Both Committees recommended that General Faculties Council endorse the Women's Studies Program subject to the availability of an appropriate level of funding.

The proposal, together with the relevant letters of endorsement, are attached to the Official Copy of the Minutes.

Representatives of the Advisory Committee to the Vice-President on Women's Studies were present for discussion of this item. The Chairman introduced Professors M. Asheton-Smith, P. Clements, J. Lauber and R. Sydie, and A. Hall, Chair of the Advisory Committee.

Vice-President Meekison opened the discussion by thanking the members of the Advisory Committee whose efforts during the past two and a half years, in conjunction with those of the Faculty of Arts, had resulted in the proposal now before members.

Vice-President Meekison said the proposal, which was based on an interdisciplinary approach, was academically sound and he felt it would prove an exciting addition to the University's offerings. It was, he added, his hope and expectation that it would lead to an expansion of course offerings in other Faculties beyond those listed in the proposal.

Vice-President Meekison noted that at present the proposal was essentially for an undergraduate program but that the Advisory Committee to the Vice-President would continue to function and would be developing vigorous research activity on campus during the next few years.

8.20

Questions regarding the possibility of a graduate program had also been raised, Vice-President Meekison said, and initially thought had been given to offering B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. programs simultaneously. However, upon reflection the Committee considered it would be preferable to establish a sound undergraduate program before developing graduate offerings.

The Chairman invited comment from Dean White, who said that the proposal had the full support of the Faculty of Arts Council. Dean White noted that the four-year B.A. program would serve as a framework for the proposed program which would be based on courses currently offered by the Faculty of Arts. Building on that core, several new courses would be initiated so that the whole would form an area of concentration which would be available to students enrolled in a B.A. program.

Dean White said that because Women's Studies was an interdisciplinary program it was proposed to employ the same administrative model which had worked successfully with other interdisciplinary programs in the Faculty of Arts, such as the Canadian Studies Program and the Film Studies Program.

In summation, Dean White said the proposed program for Women's Studies could be viewed as an area of concentration within the four-year B.A. program.

MOTION

It was **MOVED** by Dean White and seconded by Professor Sydie that General Faculties Council endorse the proposal for a program in the Women's Studies in the Faculty of Arts subject to the availability of an appropriate level of funding.

The observation was made by Professor Clements that during the question period of GFC on November 3, 1975 a student member had asked whether any action was planned towards developing a Women's Studies Program at the University. She felt it was interesting and appropriate that the action now being taken by Council was one which had been initiated at a Council meeting, and by a student.

In the general discussion which followed Mr. Berger spoke in favor of thought being given to offering graduate level courses in say one-two years instead of five years, which he understood was the time frame which had been suggested.

Professor Jenkins expressed concern that the University's objective of balanced perspective could be jeopardized by the emphasis placed on the role of women by the courses which would comprise the Women's Studies Program. For example, he questioned how one could examine the role of

women in literature without reference to the role of men. Conceding it might be argued that hitherto insufficient emphasis had been placed on the role of women he nevertheless maintained that to go to the other extreme and teach courses where the sole emphasis was on the role of women would create an equal imbalance.

This view was not shared by Dean White who pointed out that the framework of the four-year B.A. program provided the student with a very broad exposure to a range of courses in the first two years and with the opportunity to specialize in the final two years. Moreover, a number of the courses which would be offered in the program were those which had been developed to meet deficiencies which had been seen in the Faculty's regular curriculum. For example, the Department of History's initiation of a course relating to the History of Women in Canadian society had been developed in order to achieve the balance referred to by Professor Jenkins, since much of the historical focus in that area had hitherto tended to be male dominated.

Dean White reiterated that the proposal did not focus on a new trend but rather it sought to configure existing courses in a particular way which would, with the addition of several new courses, meet what the Faculty saw as a legitimate need.

While expressing support for the concept of the proposal Dean Piper urged that thought be given to the integration of a research component, which she felt was essential to any University program.

Dean White concurred with the point made by Dean Piper. He noted, however, that the proposed new courses included a research methodology course which would be taught by established scholars. Moreover, it was Dean White's understanding that thought was being given to bringing together individuals on campus with common interest in Women's Studies to carry out common research.

**VOTE ON
MOTION**

Following the brief exchange, the question was **PUT** and the **MOTION** to endorse the proposal for a program in the Women's Studies in the Faculty of Arts subject to the availability of an appropriate level of funding was **CARRIED**.

8.21

EXCERPT FROM 1988-89 CALENDAR

43.24 Women's Studies

43.24.1 Concentration in Women's Studies

(1) The Degree of BA

- a See 43.1.1
- b Concentration in Women's Studies requires a minimum of five full-course equivalents and a maximum of seven FCEs at the 300 level or above in W ST and cross-listed Women's Studies courses (see §43.24.1(d)). Required are W ST 300, W ST 400, W ST 401 and one further FCE in cross-listed Women's Studies courses at the 400-level.
Note: Students wishing to concentrate in Women's Studies are counselled to take W ST 300 (FCE) as their Arts option in second year. W ST 300 is a prerequisite for all 300- and 400-level W ST courses, but it is not a prerequisite for cross-listed Women's Studies courses.
- c Women's Studies as a second subject requires a minimum of three FCEs in either the W ST or cross-listed Women's Studies courses at the 300 level or above (see §43.24.1(d)), one of which must be W ST 300. The required 400-level FCE must be chosen from either the remaining W ST or cross-listed Women's Studies courses.
- d Cross-Listed Courses in Women's Studies
 - 1) 200-level
 - ANTHR 210 Sex, Society and the Individual
 - 2) 300-level
 - CHRT 318 Feminist Theology
 - CLASS 361 Women in Classical Antiquity
 - C LIT 366 Women in World Literature
 - ENGL 395 Women's Literary Tradition
 - FREN 311 Readings from French Women Writers
 - HIST 303 Introduction to the History of Women
 - HIST 371 History of Women in Canadian Society
 - INT D 347 Women and Socialism: USSR and Eastern Europe
 - PHIL 332 Feminist Issues in Political and Social Philosophy
 - POLS 350 Women and Politics: A Comparative Perspective
 - SOC 301 Sociology of Sex Roles
 - 3) 400-level
 - ANTHR 410 Sex and Status in Comparative Perspective
 - CANST 401 Seminar in Canadian Studies (Canadian Feminism: Contexts and Critiques)
 - FREN 490 Women Writers in France
 - HIST 413 Women in Modern European History
 - HIST 470 Topics in Canadian Social History (Women and the Family)
 - JAPAN 417 Women's Literature in Japan
 - SOC 491 Gender Stratification and Differentiation

Note: These courses cannot be used by students concentrating in Women's Studies to fulfill the requirement for the second subject of the BA (AR20) degree.

44.43 Women's Studies

44.43.1 Senior Courses

W ST 300 Introduction to Women's Studies
 3 (3-0-0). A survey and analysis of issues concerning women's lives, both historically and in the present; an account of the development of feminist theories and critiques, and an assessment of the contribution this new scholarship has made in transforming received knowledge in a variety of disciplines. Not available to first-year students.

W ST 301 History of Feminist Thought
 3 (either term, 3-0-0). The development of feminist thought and theories from the eighteenth to the twentieth century, including the contributions of, and tensions between various feminisms. Prerequisite: W ST 300.

W ST 302 Feminist Research and Methodologies
 3 (either term, 3-0-0). Whether there can be and is a distinctive feminist perspective on research in various disciplines, the ways in which taking a feminist perspective, or taking account of women in research, affects the research process. Prerequisite: W ST 300.

W ST 400 Interdisciplinary Women's Studies Seminar
 3 (either term, 0-3-0). Prerequisite: W ST 300.

W ST 401 Senior Project in Women's Studies
 3 (either term, 0-3-0). Prerequisite: W ST 300.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

WOMEN IN SCHOLARSHIP, ENGINEERING, SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY, TASK FORCE ON - WISEST

PURPOSE: 1) To suggest means to correct the under-representation of women in these fields.

MEETINGS: At call of the chair, minimum of 4 per year.

MEMBERSHIP: Members are appointed by the Vice-President (Research).
Committee chairman is the Vice-President (Research).

MEMBERS: ex officio

Chair Vice-President (Research) C.R. James

appointed - no fixed term

Dr. Sharon M. Abu-Laban	Sociology
Dr. Theresa M. Allen	Pharmacology
Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour	Chemistry
Mrs. Doris Badir	Office of the President
Dr. Sheila Bertram	Library Science
Ms. Rebecca Bjustrom	Research Services
Dr. Lois Browne	Chemistry
Mrs. Muriel Cheriton	Optum Group, Consultant
Dr. Dallas M. Cullen	Organizational Analysis
Dr. Ann Marie Decore	Educational Foundations
Ms. Pat DeZutter	Alta. Women's Secretariat
Dr. Linda Fedigan	Anthropology
Dr. Susan Jackel	Canadian Studies
Dr. Heidi J. Kass	Secondary Education
Dr. Janet C. Kerr	Nursing
Dr. Linda Lange	Boreal Institute
Ms. E. McClintock	Advanced Education
Dr. Nelly McEwen	Alberta Education
Ms. P. McWilliams	Science Teacher
Dr. Frederick Morrison	Family Studies
Ms. Elizabeth Stinson	
Dr. Dorothy Tovell	Biochemistry
Ms. M.J.R. Watson	Northwestern Utilities

REPORTS: One copy of annual report for Vice-President (Research).

8.24



Athabasca University

June 23, 1988

Dr. J. Peter Meekison
Vice-President, Academic
University of Alberta
3rd Floor University Hall
Edmonton, Alberta
T6G 2J9

Dear Peter:

Further to our recent meeting about the proposed Women's Research Centre, jointly sponsored by our two universities, I am writing to confirm Athabasca University's strong endorsement for this venture.

A product of several years of informal collaboration between the two institutions, the Research Centre proposal has been approved by our Arts and Sciences Council and would serve a valuable role in supporting the development of our programme in Women's Studies.

Athabasca University is willing to contribute its share of the operating expenses and to help secure the necessary capital equipment, notably microcomputers, to ensure the success of this joint venture. I assume that the particulars of our respective contributions will be formalized in a letter of agreement once it has received the necessary endorsement at the University of Alberta.

Thank you very much for your leadership and support in the implementation of this proposal. I look forward to confirmation of its approval.

Yours sincerely,

Ross H. Paul, Ph.D.
Vice-President Academic

RHP/ch



4. WOMEN'S RESEARCH CENTRE: PROPOSAL FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S (ACADEMIC) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S STUDIES FOR A CENTRE JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA AND ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

Members were asked to consider the above-noted proposal for the establishment of a Women's Research Centre.

The Coordinator had noted in the Outline of the Issues that the Academic Development Committee was responsible for making recommendations to the Planning & Priorities Committee for the establishment of new centres or institutes, and assignment of priorities for their establishment.

It was also noted that, on May 31 1988, Associate Vice-President (Research) B.L. Scarfe had written to Dr. Assheton-Smith with respect to funding sources for the proposed Centre. In his letter, Dr. Scarfe referred to the Task Force on Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology (WISEST) and to the Women's Studies Program in the Faculty of Arts. Information concerning these programs, as well as Dr. Scarfe's letter, were before members.

Also before members were the terms of reference and a list of members of the Women's Studies Committee.

The Chair said that, if approved, the proposal would be forwarded to the Planning & Priorities Committee. He added that he had spoken with Dr. R. Paul of Athabasca University, who had indicated that that institution was committed to the Centre and was willing to contribute to its operating and capital costs. Housing of the Centre would be at the University of Alberta and the University's share of the operating costs would probably be larger, he said.

Co-Chairs of the Women's Studies Committee, Dr. M. Assheton-Smith (Department of Educational Foundations) and Dr. R. Liburd (Student Counselling), joined the discussion.

Dr. Assheton-Smith said that work on this endeavor had been on-going for a number of years. She said that the Advisory Committee on Women's Studies had met as a research institute once a month since October 1987. Dr. Assheton-Smith noted that the listing of current research activities on campus had been provided to give an idea of the diversity of research that would be possible in this Centre. The research would be focussed on issues that affect women and as women experience them, she said.

Dr. Liburd said that the group now had space in a house in Garneau, although the meetings were previously held in the Faculty of Extension's Women's Program office.

A member asked if the research done at the Centre would be predominantly in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities and Dr. Assheton-Smith said that there was also interest in research in Nursing, Business, Education and Science. Dr. Liburd said that the Centre would be interdisciplinary.

A member asked if the objective of carrying out feminist research "for" women (that might challenge existing models of knowledge in the

University) was why the proposal was not more fully integrated with the WISEST group. He asked why the Centre seemed to be isolated from the University, even in terms of the proposed location, which might not promote interaction with the academic stream.

Dr. Assheton-Smith said that WISEST was "an organization which attempted to improve opportunities for women in science, engineering and technology. She said that WISEST's focus was quite different from the Centre's objective of building a knowledge base derived from research; however, there was interaction between WISEST and her group.

As a member of WISEST, Dr. Cullen said that the organization encouraged opportunities and support for women and men in non-traditional areas, particularly in terms of supporting the educational process regarding high school and University students. WISEST did not focus on research, she said.

Regarding Arts' Women's Studies program, Dr. Liburd said that there was representation from her committee to the Faculty of Arts. Dr. Assheton-Smith said that the proposal had been sent informally to Dr. S. Neuman of the Women's Studies program. There had never been a suggestion for a formal link, she said, because members of both groups were already communicating informally.

A member asked if students might be allowed to serve as research assistants in the proposed Centre as part of course credit in the Women's Studies program. Dr. Assheton-Smith said that the Advisory Committee on Women's Studies wanted research assistantships available for women working in women's/feminist studies in any Faculty in the University.

Observing that much of the research would be phenomenological and qualitative in approach, one member asked if this would affect the Centre's academic credibility. Dr. Assheton-Smith said that the research would tend to emphasize qualitative approaches, since such methods were seen to identify variables that might not be identifiable by other procedures. She said that contemporary feminist researchers recognized the importance of statistical work and that such research need not be confined to a single methodological approach.

A member supported the idea that the Centre would not be attached to any one Faculty, as well as the idea of research assistantships being available from the Centre to students in any Faculty, or vice versa.

Another member asked if it would be impossible to do research studies within other Faculties on women's issues. Dr. Liburd said that, while such research would continue to be carried out in Faculties, the Centre would organize it so that it would be supportive and collaborative instead of being isolated. Dr. Assheton-Smith said that a Centre would enable researchers to take an interdisciplinary approach. Although such research would not be restricted to the Centre, she said, the organization would bring researchers together.

A member expressed concern that men would be excluded from carrying out research related to women's issues at the facility. Dr. Assheton-Smith

said that men would not be excluded but that it was her personal hope that, for the first year or so, the emphasis would be on women engaging in research activities at the Centre.

Regarding the relationship between the Centre and the Women's Program in the Faculty of Extension, Dr. Assheton-Smith said that the latter provided a service to women in the community and was an adult educational service, while the former would have a research focus. Dr. Liburd said that Extension had established a Resource Centre which collected and disseminated information regarding women. In future, she added, some research at the Centre might be made available to more women through the Resource Centre.

In conclusion, Dr. Assheton-Smith said that the Committee was aware of the financial difficulties of establishing the Centre and she added that, if the Centre was approved, a major task would be to find donations.

The Chair thanked the guests, who then withdrew.

A member asked how graduate students might relate to the Centre in terms of research, as opposed to, for example, the Department of Sociology. The Chair said that this would vary but that the probability would be that students' supervisors might advise them to become involved with the Centre. Students might also be able to obtain financial assistance (primarily through the supervisor) from the Centre. He added that the Centre might welcome anyone with research interests along feminist lines and would provide a focal point for research and collaboration on campus.

One member noted that more funding could be available to students, should the Centre be approved, which would not have been possible without such a structure.

Another member said that the nature of work done at the Centre would allow people to get together with researchers in other fields, which was less likely when there was no facility for such collaboration. Arts' degree program was unable to fulfill this need, she said.

The Chair clarified that the Centre would not offer a degree. Four years ago, he said, the Women's Studies Committee was established with the mandate to, among other things, advise on policy at the University of Alberta with regard to the development of women's studies as an academic program. The Committee had considered proposing the establishment of a degree-granting research centre, but had decided that this endeavor would be too complex, he said. An alternative was developed of offering a Women's Studies program in Arts, which excluded possibilities for a graduate studies program and a research capacity. This proposal, therefore, had stemmed from the need to develop research in the field, he concluded.

Regarding the Graduate Students' Association, Ms. Strang said that a task force had been established a year ago to consider the development of a graduate program in Women's Studies. So far, she said, surveys (of undergraduate and graduate students and faculty) yielded a positive

response to a graduate program in this area. If such a proposal eventually was approved by GSA, she said, it would be sent to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research for approval.

MOTION

It was MOVED by Professor Crown and seconded by Mr. Vethan that the Academic Development Committee approve, and forward to the Planning & Priorities Committee, a proposal from the Advisory Committee on Women's Studies for the establishment of a Women's Research Centre jointly sponsored by the University of Alberta and Athabasca University.

The Chair informed members that, should ADC approve the Centre (the first step in the development of an independent research centre on campus) this would not mean endorsement of the budget. He said that, as a University of Alberta-approved Centre, this organization could request donations and funding.

Several members expressed concern that the proposal defined membership in terms of gender (i.e., the proposal indicated that the Centre's director would be female). The Chair said that men would not be excluded.

A member noted that the proposal (under section 5.1, Administrative and Working Organization) had indicated that the membership of the Centre would be made up of academics and community women engaged in or interested in feminist research. He said that, rather than indicating "community women," the proposal should refer to "community members". Another member disagreed and added that such a change might be destructive to links with community women and women's groups.

Members discussed whether the Centre should be called "Feminist Research Centre" rather than Women's Research Centre, although it was noted that the term "feminist" might have political connotations not intended by the proposers. It was noted that methodological approaches to be used for research on women's issues were the most important factors in the development of such a centre. A member concluded that the nature of the Centre's orientation (as "feminist" or otherwise), especially in terms of actions and lobbies, should be made explicit.

VOTE ON
MOTION

The MOTION was PUT and CARRIED.



to: Dr. Marilyn Assheton-Smith
Department of Educational Foundations

date: ^{5/19} May 19, 1988

our file:

from: Vice-President (Academic)

your file:

subject: Proposal for a Women's Research Centre

Dear Dr. Assheton-Smith:

Given the very obvious mandate of the Women's Research Centre, I have sent a copy to the Vice-President (Research) for his comment. It might be useful for you to give him a call to see whether or not he has any suggestions with respect to possible sources of funding because I fear our internal resources are somewhat limited.

Yours sincerely,

J. Peter Meekison

JPM/dg

c.c. Dr. C.R. James

5/20/88 Harry for Dr. Assheton



to: Dr. Marilyn Assheton-Smith
Department of Educational Foundations

date: May 17, 1988

our file:

from: Vice-President (Academic)

your file:

subject: Proposal for a Women's Research Centre


Dear Dr. Assheton-Smith:

Thank you for submitting the revised Proposal for a Women's Research Centre. As I mentioned to you, I have not had an opportunity of discussing this with Dr. Paul at Athabasca University, but will do so before it is discussed by the Academic Development Committee. Given our respective calendars, I don't think it will be possible to discuss this until the middle of June.

By copy of this letter to Mrs. Evelyn Phillips, Coordinator of the Academic Development Committee, I am requesting that she add it to an ADC meeting scheduled for mid-June. As I mentioned to you on the telephone, funds have been distributed for this year and I doubt very much that any university funding will be possible in the 1988-89 academic year. Nevertheless, this would not prevent the matter from being discussed by the appropriate university bodies. Since there are space and financial implications, it would go from ADC to PPC.

Please extend to the members of the committee my congratulations on putting together an excellent proposal.

Yours sincerely,


J. Peter Meekison

JPM/dg

c.c. Mrs. E. Phillips
University Secretariat



A Meeting of EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of General Faculties Council

Will be held on MONDAY, August 8, 1988, at 9:00 a.m.

in Room 3-15 University Hall

A G E N D A

Attached
Numbered Pages

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| 1. | Approval of the Agenda | |
| 2. | Approval of the Minutes of July 11, 1988
(attached) | |
| | <u>BUSINESS ARISING</u> | |
| 3. | Teaching Evaluation: Revised Proposal from the GFC
Committee for the Improvement of Teaching and
Learning (CITL)
(attached)
(reference EXEC October 5, 1987, Minute 167)

(Vice-President Meekison) | 3. - 3.10 |
| | <u>NEW BUSINESS</u> | |
| 4. | Academic Standing and Program Admission Regulations:
Faculty of Science
(attached)

(The Chair) | 4. - 4.3 |
| 5. | Admission Requirements: Faculty of Nursing
(attached)

(The Chair) | 5. - 5.1 |
| 6. | Admission Requirements for Non-Matriculated Applicants
to Faculte Saint-Jean: Recommendation from the GFC
Committee on Admissions and Transfer (CAT)
(attached)

(Dean Bour and
Acting Registrar Gault) | 6. - 6.3 |
| 7. | Admission Requirements for the BSc Occupational
Therapy Degree Program: Recommendation from the GFC
Committee on Admissions and Transfer (CAT)
(attached)

(Acting Registrar Gault) | 7. - 7.8 |

Handwritten notes:
to Mr. Meekison
to Mr. Gault
to Mr. Bour
to Mr. Gault
to Mr. Gault

Attached
Numbered Pages

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 8. Women's Research Centre: Recommendation from the GFC Academic Development Committee (ADC) (attached) | 8. - 8.28 |
| (Vice-President Meekison) | |
| 9. Faculty of Library Science: Recommendation from the GFC Academic Development Committee (ADC) Concerning Change in Degree Designation (and Associated Changes in Name and Program) (attached) | 9. - 9.7 |
| (Vice-President Meekison) | |
| 10. Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences: Recommendation from the GFC Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC) on Admissions, Academic Standing and Curriculum Changes (attached) | 10. - 10.71 |
| (The Chair) | |
| 11. GFC Nominating Committee: Replenishment (attached) | 11. |
| (The Chair) | |
| 12. Other Business | |

EASS/lem
July 20, 1988
(For the Executive Committee Meeting of August 8, 1988)



to: Dr. M. Assheton-Smith
Dept. of Educational Foundations
Education North

from: Dr. Brian L. Scarfe
Associate Vice-President (Research)
3-3 University Hall

subject: PROPOSAL FOR A WOMEN'S RESEARCH CENTRE

date: May 31st, 1988.

our file:

your file:

I am responding to your telephone call of last week which referred to Dr. Meekison's letter to you of May 19th, 1988, with respect to funding sources for the proposed Women's Research Centre.

The proposal is an impressive one, which I am fully confident should meet with ADC support when it reaches that committee in June. I was, however, a little surprised that no direct connections were made with the existing Women's Studies program in the Faculty of Arts (see calendar 43.24 and 44.43), or to the important work of our standing committee -- Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology -- WISEST, which has received both moral and (ad hoc) financial support from the Office of the Vice-President (Research) over the past few years. Perhaps it would be useful for the key spokespersons for each of these groups to meet with Dr. Meekison and Dr. James and/or myself to ensure the complementarity of each of these initiatives, and to reduce the possibility of any jurisdictional conflicts.

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...2

May 31st, 1988.

Committee process, but then repeatedly come to this office for on-going financial support. Three such examples are

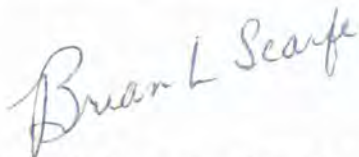
the Centre for Gerontology,
the Research Institute for Comparative Literature,
and the Theoretical Physics Institute

and there are numerous other examples. As a general rule, therefore, we are somewhat concerned about the creation of new centres and institutes which do not have definite external funding sources identified as part of a coherent financial plan.

Even though the three centres previously mentioned are demonstrably doing quality work, it is not clear that we can guarantee any form of continued support for them in the current financial environment. The Central Research Fund is designed for peer-assessed research project support, and not (as a general rule) for on-going support of research overheads. It has, on occasion, provided limited one-shot seed money to encourage the start-up of new ventures.

In sum, I do not need convincing about the importance of establishing a first-rate Women's Research Centre. But I am concerned about the Centre's on-going financial support base. Should ADC approve the establishment of the Centre, we would consider a request for an initial start-up grant. Given our financial limitations, however, any such grant would come nowhere close to your year one operating budget even under Scenario I, and would, in no way, support your start-up capital budget. Unfortunately, this conclusion reflects a realistic appraisal of our financial situation, and in no way reflects upon the intrinsic importance of the establishment of a Women's Research Centre along the lines set out in your impressive proposal.

Best regards.



Dr. Brian L. Scarfe.

BLS/rml

cc: Dr. C.R. James
Dr. J.P. Meekison



to: Dr. M. Assheton-Smith
Department of Educational Foundations
and
from: Dr. R. Liburd, Counsellor
Student Counselling

date: May 27, 1988

our file:

your file:

subject: E.R. Phillips, Associate Director
University Secretariat
2-5 University Hall

Women's Research Centre: Proposal from the Vice-President's (Academic) Advisory Committee on Women's Studies for a Centre Jointly Sponsored by the University of Alberta and Athabasca University

The Academic Development Committee will consider the above-noted proposal at approximately 3:15 p.m., Wednesday, June 22, 1988 in 3-15 University Hall. A formal invitation, as well as the material which will be before members, will be sent to you approximately one week before the meeting.

Please call 4733 to confirm your attendance.

(Mrs.) Evelyn R. Phillips

ERP/vw



to: Dr. Marilyn Assheton-Smith
Department of Educational Foundations

date: June 3, 1988

our file:

from: Vice-President (Academic)

your file:

subject: Women's Research Centre: Meeting with Athabasca University

Dear Dr. Assheton-Smith:

I would be delighted to have you join us on Wednesday, June 15th at 10:00 a.m. in Room 3-17 University Hall. I agree with you that it would be helpful to you in further discussions.

Yours sincerely,

J. Peter Meekison

JPM/dg



to: Dr. M. Assheton-Smith
Department of Educational Foundations
 and
 Dr. R. Liburd
 from: Student Counselling

E.R. Phillips, Associate Director
 University Secretariat
 subject: 2-5 University Hall

date: June 24, 1988

our file:

your fi

*(Bossey)
 Call @ 9
 Thursday
 872007*

Women's Research Centre: Proposal from the Vice
 (Academic) Advisory Committee on Women's Studies f...
 Jointly Sponsored by the University of Alberta and Athabasca
 University

On June 22, 1988, the Academic Development Committee endorsed and forwarded to the Planning and Priorities Committee, your proposal for a Women's Research Centre.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you would be available to meet with PPC on July 14 or August 11.

*Thursday
 2 PM
 3-15
 Univ Hall*

Evelyn R. Phillips

(Mrs.) E.R. Phillips

ERP/jdn

cc: Dr. J.P. Meekison
 Dr. R.H. Paul, Vice-President (Academic), Athabasca University

*Meekison
 Liburd
 Jones
 F. U.S. Paulson
 G.S. Doug Balhu
 Tim Christ - for
 Tom Clark
 F. U.S. U.S. U.S.
 Jim McGeary
 Chris
 Mel MacMillan
 Ewan
 Anita Moore
 Boreat
 Linda Ramsey
 Liburd
 Ursula Madell
 Comp Sec
 U.S. Rep. Ron Glen*

Scholarship at the center → library access

PPC → seminar

Plan for 5-10 years -

letterhead -

10%/90% - review amount - \int Think of UofA & Alberta

27000 or 30000.

Research grants maybe done the equivalent of the UofA
(employee of the UofA?) -

→ written agreement between 2 parties -

4.

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Outline of the Issues

RE: Women's Research Centre: Proposal from the Vice-President's (Academic) Advisory Committee on Women's Studies for a Centre Jointly Sponsored by the University of Alberta and Athabasca University

ACTION

REQUIRED: To consider the above-noted proposal for the establishment of a Women's Research Centre.

Note 1: The Academic Development Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Planning and Priorities Committee for the establishment of new centres or institutes, and assignment of priorities for their establishment.

Note 2: The terms of reference and a list of members of the Women's Studies Committee are attached as pages 4.16 and 4.17.

ERP/lem

May 26, 1988

(For the Academic Development Committee of June 22, 1988)

PROPOSAL FOR
A
WOMEN'S RESEARCH CENTRE
JOINTLY SPONSORED BY
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
AND
ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

The Vice-President's (Academic) Advisory Committee on Women's Studies
The University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta

March 22, 1988

1. Background

This document will present a proposal for the establishment of a Women's Research Centre sponsored jointly by Athabasca University and the University of Alberta. This research centre will function as a focal point for feminist research in both universities and in the larger community.

Feminist research is defined as research for women, rather than research on women or by women. This implies a clear recognition of a value orientation, an orientation to improving the situation of women in our society and in the world community. However, it does not necessarily imply applied research. Much of feminist research challenges existing models of knowledge in the university and proposes alternatives to those models; such research is clearly research "for women" in spite of the fact it occurs within disciplines such as philosophy or literature or anthropology or other fields of primary knowledge.

In that feminist research is "for" women rather than "on" women, its domain extends to many areas of study. It may include analyses of political institutions, economic structures, ecological relations, or dozens of other phenomena which impact upon women. It differs from other research in these same areas by the constant question, how does this phenomenon or current knowledge about it affect women? Or how is this phenomenon experienced by women?

Margrit Eichler provides a succinct description of such research:

At the most fundamental level, feminist scholarship is committed to understanding and improving the situation of women. It starts from the premise that all scholarship is necessarily value-oriented and that more often than not a lack of feminist consciousness results in sexist theories and descriptions. Identifying and criticizing sexist elements in the existing literature is therefore an important part of feminist work. Once a critique has been achieved, and basic data have been collected, new concepts and models are created, either to express female experiences, or to encompass the experiences of both sexes. The latter can only be achieved after the former has been partially done. In either case, feminist work eventually gropes towards a new epistemology which allows for the adequate understanding of female and male life (1985:624).

By implication, feminist research and analysis not only critiques knowledge within disciplines but often transcends the boundaries of disciplines.

Feminist scholarship is well represented at the University of Alberta and Athabasca University, through the teaching, publishing and research of individual academics in various departments and Faculties. Nonetheless there is a need for a support system which could be provided through a formalized institute or research centre. Such a centre would encourage cross-fertilization and collaboration and would provide a mechanism for obtaining research grants. It would also establish a visibility for feminist scholarship which would attract students and international

visiting scholars.

To begin to address these needs, a number of steps have already been taken by the vice-president's coordinating committee on women's studies. For example, throughout the 1987-88 academic year potential funding sources have been explored and a number of seminars have been sponsored. In these seminars, feminist researchers in the universities and the community have gathered to present and analyze on-going research. It is time for this foundation to be developed into a formal research structure. We propose then that the two Universities establish a Women's Research Centre to enrich and facilitate the work of scholars doing feminist studies on these campuses and to facilitate collaboration between academic women and community-based women in the development of knowledge.

2. Research Objectives of the Centre

The centre would have the following objectives:

- a) to provide a centre for critical disciplinary and interdisciplinary feminist research open to university and community researchers.
- b) to contribute to the building of a knowledge base in women's studies, especially on topics particularly pertinent to women of Alberta, Western Canada and the North.
- c) to continually develop and reassess feminist research methodologies, especially interdisciplinary methodologies.
- d) to make research results accessible, especially to those involved in university teaching, to community women's groups and to government agencies and departments with social policy mandates.

In addition the research centre would:

- a) provide an infrastructure to facilitate the research of academics, students, and women's groups and provide a mutually supportive environment for feminist research.
- b) provide a structure for developing funding proposals, bringing together researchers and potential research funds, and receiving and administering funds for women's research.
- c) provide a home for visitors engaged in feminist research (for example, academics on sabbatical or study leaves, independent researchers on research grants, researchers involved in large-scale projects for community groups)

3. Rationale for a Women's Research Centre

It is apparent that women's research centres within universities contribute both to the ability of those universities to acquire funds for related research and to the development of a critical mass of feminist researchers in academic communities. The best known and most obvious example in Canada today is the work currently done at OISE by scholars such as Margrit Eichler, Dorothy Smith, Mary O'Brien and Jeri Wine. Although these academics have quite different theoretical orientations, they complement and challenge each others work precisely because of their focus within feminism and because they work from the same institutional setting. This setting is a graduate school only, and resembles more closely a research structure than a standard university programme. In fact there has been no equivalent development of research at the University of Toronto in spite of the fact there are interested scholars there. OISE scholars currently hold well over one million dollars in SSHRC research grants for feminist research. We believe that a research centre at these two Alberta Universities could not only do as well, but could draw on a much wider potential for interdisciplinary research than OISE is able to do.

Other research centres and institutes in Canada further suggest the importance of such institutions for facilitating women's research. Mount Saint Vincent's Institute for the Study of Women has developed projects in women and development and received significant funds from CIDA, Universite Laval has formed the GREMF (Groupe de recherche multidisciplinaire feministe) and L'Universite du Quebec a Montreal has created GIERF (Groupe interdisciplinaire pour l'enseignement et la recherche feministes) to both support and identify funds for research. In the case of GIERF a major contractual arrangement has been made with Relais Femmes, an independent association of women's groups in Montreal, to ensure collaborative research can be done between academic women and women working in the community.

There are no equivalent structures in Western Canada (there is a national Women's Research Centre in Vancouver, but it does not have a base in any University). There are rumours and beginnings of other centres, but Athabasca University and the University of Alberta could now take the lead in developing a centre which would both benefit by the kind of work being done in eastern Canada and identify new directions for women's research. In particular, a joint centre of the nature proposed here would have a number of benefits for both institutions and for women in the surrounding communities.

A joint research centre would build upon the experience the two universities had in working together to develop the proposal for the Western Canadian Chair in Women's Studies. Each university would bring to the centre different and special strengths. The University of Alberta has relatively large numbers of active feminist scholars, dispersed throughout many faculties. It has a reputation as a world class university, and would bring to this partnership academics working within that tradition and reputation. Athabasca University is an internationally recognized university specializing in distance education. Because of its distance education mandate it has developed expertise in delivering education to groups which do not normally have access to post-secondary institutions, such as northerners and women in rural and isolated communities. Many of the methods used for distance education can be adapted and used in collaborative research with women's groups, or in disseminating research findings.

4. Research Agenda

Although the exact program by which research centre objectives might be achieved will vary, depending on the funding and the researchers who become involved in the institute, we would like to describe here some possible directions which the research might follow. A specific research agenda (in the sense of topics for research) would not be set out in advance for the institute; rather associates of the institute would bring their individual and existing women's research interests into the institute. An appendix is attached listing the research currently being done by members of the committee and a few other academic members of the two universities; this provides the clearest example of the kind of work which would be carried out but at a higher level as a result of interaction within the centre.

The fall and winter presentations of research have included such diverse topics as women's depression, becoming a mother, research which is preparation for doing documentary films, research on education and employment of Indian and Metis women, women's biographies (both being written as academic work per se and being written as part of developing an understanding of the history of family members), and explorations of women's consciousness.

But what are other possible projects which we could see in the future? A project might begin with any researcher, so it could be in medicine, nursing, law, science, literature, psychology, or in applied concerns related to rape crisis centres, battered women's shelters, women and pensions and so on, but the following are possibilities.

1. Among the women who have been active in Alberta history probably the "famous five" are the best known. But these five women represent but a tiny fraction of women who have tried to create social change through political action of various forms, from organized protest groups to lobbying governments and participating in political parties. One major direction for interdisciplinary research would be to analyze this activity, both as a historical and contemporary phenomenon, to determine the causes and consequences of such activity and to propose alternative models for political action. At least some of this research could be in the form of "action research" as that term is used by the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, as women actively engaged in trying to create some political change could participate at the same time with academics in a reflective research process.

2. As women's groups and governments identify major issues of concern, and funds are made available for related research, some particular issues could form the basis for long-term research in the institute. In these cases, it might be preferable to hire research staff specifically for such work. For example, there is currently a concern with child-care arrangements in Canada and proposals to fund large-scale research in this area. Violence against women has received similar public attention, as have economic factors influencing women's lives (employment discrimination, the structure of pension arrangements and so on). Although this research, by its nature, must be applied in its focus, it would be greatly enhanced by occurring in an environment in which theoretical issues are raised.

3. In the literary and fine arts areas there is much research today on the language used in relation to women, women's language in poetry and prose, and the images of women in film and art. There are obvious relationships between this work and concerns of women active in the community about pornography, violence against women, and the sexual objectification of women. An interdisciplinary women's research institute would enable the various researchers working in all of these areas to both do their within discipline work and to discuss their work with each other and with women attempting to impact on the situation in the community.

4. Michelle Harrison discusses PMS as a complex of symptoms related to women's menstrual cycle, but in her discussion she makes it quite clear that we do not know the relationship of PMS to social structure, for cross-cultural studies on menstrual cycles are extremely rare. That recognition which pervades her work, the recognition that physiological phenomena may well be deeply embedded in the gender structure of societies characterizes her research as feminist. It does not characterize it as interdisciplinary, for she herself focuses only on the medical aspects of the syndrome. In an interdisciplinary women's research institute in which a researcher was interested in this topic, we could work to bring her insight together with the research of sociologists and anthropologists into gender structuring and its impact on physiological phenomena. Such work does not necessarily require international research, for it can be done by research with women from religious enclaves such as Hutterites, women from various classes, and with women from minority cultural groups, to suggest but a few examples.

5. Women's groups in the community have a continuing need for what might be called small-scale research, or information gathering. The research centre would bring together these groups and graduate students who could do some of this work as part of their paper-writing and thesis work, possibly for a small fee paid to the student or as part of a research assistantship funded by the centre. Some of this work might well be done by undergraduate students in women's studies courses, enhancing their academic studies at the universities.

6. In the women's movement women are beginning to address issues of race, racism, and cultural differences. It is not the case that all women experience their situation as women in the same way, and for many women that means addressing problems of knowledge which are specific to their racial, ethnic, or cultural groups. The research centre would make it possible for this diversity of women's experience to be addressed by academic research, and addressed in a way which would be useful to the women involved.

7. Finally, research methodologies themselves would be an integral component of the centre's research agenda. Dr. Ursula Franklin, a metallurgist from the University of Toronto, argued while she was in Edmonton in 1987 that the most essential aspect of feminist research is that it continually takes context into account. That is, it is unlike analytical research, or the standard model of science, in which phenomena can be understood in terms of models which consist of ideal or logical relations. This set of ideas is not unique to feminist work but they are central to such work; the implication is that methodologies must continually make it possible to address context.

Dr. Franklin also remarked that, given the well-developed nature of quantitative methodologies in the sciences, and their basis within rigid disciplinary

boundaries, alternative methodologies based in multi-disciplinary work will initially seem inadequate to many people. She suggested some of our most important work may well be in clarifying and developing those methodologies as we do our work. When we begin a project the methodology might not always be clear, but it would then be essential to bring that methodology into focus before the work was completed and to make it a major topic for discussion. This kind of work may well be some of the most important research which is conducted at the centre, research which will enable us to address the epistemological and methodological questions raised by Eichler (above) and by others such as Allison Jaggar and Sandra Harding.

5. Structure of the Centre

5.1. Administrative and Working Organization

We would recommend that the membership of the centre be made up of those academics and community women who are engaged in or interested in feminist research and that the administrative structure consist of a co-ordinating committee and a paid staff. The co-ordinating committee would be composed of seven members, two appointed from the membership by the appropriate vice-presidents of each of the sponsoring universities and three selected by centre members. Their terms would be for from two to four years, with terms staggered to ensure there was continuity on the committee, and they would elect the chairperson from among themselves. The selection process for this committee would ensure that there was reasonable representation from the various women's groups involved, including a diversity of faculties in the universities, women in the community, and students of the two universities.

The co-ordinating committee would report annually to the appropriate vice-president of each university, and would meet at least twice a year with the members of the centre to discuss the on-going research work and administration of the centre. Its terms of reference would include the acceptance of applications for membership in the institute and the development of research projects. The committee would also arrange for dissemination of research results, and further other objectives of the institute not clearly covered by these three tasks. Other terms of reference would be to ensure that the institute as a physical plant was kept operating, that an adequate budget was developed and followed, that additional funds (both from within and outside the university) were sought to ensure the work of the institute, and generally to oversee the research institute as a functioning administrative unit.

The volume of work which we anticipate at the centre would necessitate the hiring of at least two employees, a director and a secretary. The first should be an academic position; under the direction of the Research Coordinating Committee she would have responsibility for fund-raising, mediating between the universities and the community, establishing a high-profile centre which would be inviting to international scholars, and she would be an information resource to both researchers and to individuals and groups who want specific research done. She would also manage the day to day operations of the centre, develop annual budgets, and ensure that feminist researchers and community workers were knowledgeable about the centre. She would, of course, be expected to maintain

her own research agenda within the framework of the centre's general orientation.

The secretary would ensure that necessary accounting, paper work, and filing was done. She would also take responsibility for maintaining the centre in the absence of the director, and would carry out other duties which would assist researchers in their work. Other employees would be added as researchers and research assistants when funds were available, either through contracts, endowment funds, or university base budgetting.

5.2. Space and facilities

The space needs for the centre would be office space for researchers, and office for the director and the secretary. In addition, a seminar room would be needed for meetings of the centre, and there should be facilities for the preparation of coffee and snacks (especially for evening research meetings which will be necessary for community women to attend). There should be three to five research offices to get the centre started. We anticipate that these needs will expand, but it is difficult to say to what extent at the moment. Given the need to develop a particular milieu, a centre in which communication and cooperation are enhanced, one of the houses on the University of Alberta campus would be the preferred location.

As a first stage office equipment needs will include desks, filing cabinets, and book-cases for each person who has an office in the centre, and a seminar table with comfortable chairs. It will also be necessary to have telephones and a copying machine, and microcomputers with a connection to hyperbus for library search and use of the mainframes. The director and secretary would also work with microcomputers rather than typewriters, so that all information to be shared could be shared electronically, and so that researchers could request the secretary to edit and prepare for final printing files which had been prepared on disk. Ideally, there should be one laser printer on a computer network within the centre, and dot-matrix printers shared by every two computers. This kind of computer structure is now essential, we believe, for developing a research centre and for enabling such centres to communicate with others across the country (and the world). As research based in visual images rather than print media develops, there should be a slide projector, screen, television, videocamera and videocassette recorder.

We would keep copies of all research done within the centre, perhaps on disk and in hard-copy format, and make these copies available to interested people, but we would rely on the library systems of the two Universities and the Women's Resource Centre for maintaining books and documents. That is, when researchers have funds to buy books or documents which will not be personally owned, those books and documents will be purchased for the library systems or the resource room, or turned over to them after research is completed.

6. Finances

Financial arrangements for the centre will include initial start-up costs and annual operating costs. In the initial year (88-89), the research centre must be

furnished and equipped; while these requirements are costed in the budget we expect that they can be met from existing university pools and will not represent a substantial new cost to either institution.

With respect to operating costs, we propose that the two universities reach a cost-sharing arrangement to provide the research centre with an annual operating budget that would maintain a satisfactory minimal level of activity and provide the support needed to seek external funding. We are presenting here two budget scenarios, one which requests specific funding from the two universities, and one which indicates the larger plans for the centre based on a search for external funding.

Budget Scenario I, then, is a "bare-bones" budget which will permit us to proceed in a small way until we are able to access other sources of funding. It is a budget that takes into account the current fiscal realities facing the two universities.

Budget Scenario I

Year one (1988-89)

Capital equipment

Five desks, filing cabinets, and bookcases@1,200	6,000.00
Seminar table@1,500	1,500.00
Chairs, 30@150	4,500.00
Copying machine@5,000	5,000.00
Computers, 4@4,000	16,000.00
Laser printer	4,000.00
	<u>*Subtotal=\$37,000.00</u>

Operating Costs

Purchase of one course off for a Centre Director	4,500.00
Clerical assistance, 20 hours/week	11,000.00
Computer and telecommunications costs	600.00
Mailing and Materials	1,200.00
Space, including telephone, maintenance, etc.**	4,288.00
	<u>Subtotal=\$21,588.00</u>

* It is assumed that many of these items will come from in-kind donations from university pools. New resource outlays are unlikely.

** The space figure is based on using a Garneau area house on the University of Alberta campus, costed at \$2.68 per square foot for 1600 square feet.

Budget Scenario II

Budget scenario II is the cost of establishing and maintaining an excellent women's research centre, and is the target budget for the centre. However, in the

current fiscal environment, it will only be possible if funds can be raised from sources outside of the universities. We will approach various government departments, both provincial and federal, and we have been given some encouragement in regards to funding from these sources. In addition, as with other research institutes, major research grants will be sought to cover some of the costs, such as the funds proposed for research assistants and graduate research assistants. Finally, the private sector will be approached for donations, both to an endowment fund and to operating costs which may be matched by the province.

Year one (1988-89)

Capital equipment

Five desks, filing cabinets, and bookcases@1,200	6,000.00
Seminar table@1,500	1,500.00
Chairs, 30@150	4,500.00
Copying machine@5,000	5,000.00
Computers, 4@4,000	16,000.00
Laser printer	4,000.00
	<u>Subtotal=\$37,000.00</u>

Operating Costs

Director (incl benefits)	45,000.00
Executive/Secretary (incl benefits)	24,000.00
Mainframe computer and telecommunications costs	1,200.00
Telephone and Mailing	1,200.00
Materials (paper, photocopying, etc.)	2,400.00
Space, including telephone, maintenance, etc.	4,288.00
	<u>Subtotal=\$78,088.00</u>

Year Two

Capital Costs

Computers, 2@4,000	8,000.00
Networking costs (Phonenet or equivalent)	2,000.00
	<u>Subtotal=\$10,000.00</u>

Operating Costs

Director (incl benefits)	47,000.00
Executive/Secretary (incl benefits)	26,000.00
Research assistant, 1@30,000	30,000.00
Research assistants (grad students), 3@11,000	33,000.00
Mainframe computer and telecommunications	3,000.00
Telephone and Mailing	1,500.00
Materials	4,000.00
Space, including telephone, maintenance, etc.	4,288.00
	<u>Subtotal=\$148,788.00</u>

Year Three

Capital Costs

Computers, 2@4,000

8,000.00

Subtotal=\$8,000.00

Operating Costs

Director (incl benefits)

49,000.00

Executive Secretary (incl benefits)

28,000.00

Research assistant, 2@30,000

60,000.00

Research assistants (grad students), 6@11,000

66,000.00

Mainframe computer and telecommunications

4,800.00

Telephone and Mailing

2,000.00

Materials

8,000.00

Space, including telephone, maintenance, etc.

4,288.00

Subtotal=\$222,088.00

Year Four

Operating Costs

Director (incl benefits)

51,000.00

Executive Secretary (incl benefits)

30,000.00

Research assistant, 2@30,000

60,000.00

Research assistants (grad students), 10@11,000

110,000.00

Mainframe computer and telecommunications

6,000.00

Telephone and Mailing

2,500.00

Materials

9,000.00

Space, including telephone, maintenance, etc.

4,288.00

Subtotal=\$272,788.00

Year Five

Operating Costs

Director (incl benefits)

53,000.00

Executive/Secretary (incl benefits)

32,000.00

Research assistant, 2@30,000

60,000.00

Research assistants (grad students), 10@11,000

110,000.00

Mainframe computer and telecommunications

7,000.00

Telephone and Mailing

3,500.00

Materials

10,000.00

Space, including telephone, maintenance, etc.

4,288.00

Subtotal=\$279,788.00

7. Concluding Comments

Women's research is an exploding area of scholarly work, as any perusal of bookstore shelves and periodicals would suggest. The University of Alberta and Athabasca University have an excellent opportunity to develop a women's research centre which is unique in Canada, and which would make a major contribution to this relatively new area of knowledge. This could be a research centre which is both "world-class" in the best sense of that term and also firmly rooted in the social and historical milieu, and indeed the women, of this province. It would serve the needs of scholars to meet and share their work, the needs of graduate students to become familiar with and participate in research projects, and the needs of community groups for issue-focused applied research.

Appendix: Selected List of On-Going Women's Research Topics and Researchers

- Assheton-Smith, Marilyn. (University of Alberta) Native Women, Education and Employment.
- Austin, Lisa. (Graduate Student) Images of Women in Eighteenth Century Literature.
- Bergum, Vangie. (University of Alberta) On Becoming a Mother.
- Bray, Cathy and Marilyn Assheton-Smith. (University of Alberta) Computerizing Information Flow in Women's Organizations (Action Research).
- Cavanaugh, Cathy. (Athabasca University, Community) Irene Parlbys Story.
- Chown, Diana. (Community) The Life of Alice Chown.
- Coulter, Rebecca. (Athabasca University) Women's Bibliography; Work on Adolescent Women and Employment.
- Elliott, Bridget. (University of Alberta) Images of Women in Art.
- Holmgren, Marj. (University of Alberta) Women's Experience of Depression.
- Manneschmidt, Sybil. (Graduate Student) Menstrual Experience and Social Status of Women.
- Mott, Robyn. (Graduate Student) Premenstrual Changes as Experienced by Women.
- Penrod, Lynn. (University of Alberta) French Feminist Theory; Maternity, Madness and Mortality in French and French-Canadian Women's Writing.
- Potrebenko, Mary. (Community) Women and Health.
- Spronk, Barbara. (Athabasca University) Native Women and Education.
- Stewart, Leslie. (Graduate Student) The Denigration of Women in Sport.
- Williamson, Janice. (University of Alberta) Writing: Feminist Theory and Literary Criticism.

Table of Contents

1. Background	1
2. Research Objectives of the Centre	2
3. Rationale for a Women's Research Centre	3
4. Research Agenda	4
5. Structure of the Centre	6
5.1 Administrative and Working Organization	6
5.2 Space and facilities	7
6. Finances	7
7. Concluding Comments	11
Appendix: Selected List of On-Going Women's Research Topics and Researchers	12

Notes on meeting with Meekison, Ross Paul, Rebecca Coulter, on Wednesday June 15, 1988. (Some of these are just for myself, a result of points raised during the discussion; others are for general consideration and might be considered "decisions" or "positions" expressed at the meeting.)

1. Reference to Athabasca scholars having access to the U of A library. I need to talk to someone about library access. Boreal solves it partly by having their own library, but what do they do for resident researchers? What can we do? Also recall Athabasca students will possibly want access... are there any agreements at present?

2. Not sure of Planning and Priorities Committee schedule; it may follow Academic Development Committee. I forgot to ask Meekison. Will check at the end of the ADC meeting, or phone immediately after it.

3. Ross noted the need to plan for 5 to 10 years, in regards to funding (for example, it might not be strategic to go to Russell for small dollars if we want large dollars later; Rebecca thought we should go for all we can get).

4. Reference to letter head; reminded me "and phones", "and telephone answered device."

5. Suggested the two universities contribute about 10% and 90% of the operating cost, based on the size of their budgets (17 mil vs 265 mil). However, this agreement should be reviewed annually, and it does not preclude capital contributions based on whatever each has available (such as computers from Athabasca, house from U of A). Figures tossed around were \$27,000 and \$3,000, although we actually have proposed a smaller bare-bones budget.

6. Suggested research grants go through the comptroller at the U of A. I tried to keep that open and pragmatic.

7. When committee requirements are met, there will be a written agreement between the two universities laying out the terms more specifically.

8. There was a question about other institutions joining us; we noted the logistical difficulties and I commented that academics could now participate simply as members of the centre. Meekison made passing reference to "associate-members" and I realized he feels somewhat more proprietary about this than I do. It will need some thinking if there are "real costs" (which accrue to the two universities) for others to participate, whether community or from other institutions.

9. We mentioned McCoy, Russell, and the feds as possible sources of money.

10. Ross Paul indicated that the proposal had been addressed by all the committees and structures that need to address it within Athabasca. For the U of A it must go through ADC and PPC, and if it is approved all along the road it is then "just" a matter of finding money. There are no soft funds at the U of A, but eventually it is anticipated that the money situation will ease a little and we could get base budget. (I have not mentioned the dollars currently in our account; that will be between Meekison and I).



to: Dr. M. Assheton-Smith
Department of Educational Foundations
and
from: Dr. R. Liburd, Counsellor
Student Counselling

E.R. Phillips, Associate Director
University Secretariat
subject: 2-5 University Hall

date: July 4, 1988

our file:

your file:

Women's Research Centre: Proposal from the Vice-President's (Academic) Advisory Committee on Women's Studies for a Centre Jointly Sponsored by the University of Alberta and Athabasca University

I am writing to confirm that you will be attending the Planning and Priorities Committee meeting when it considers the above noted item at approximately 3:00 p.m. on July 14, 1988 in Room 3-15 University Hall.

A copy of the material which will be before members is attached. Please note that the draft minute of ADC's discussion is included.

Please confirm that you will be able to attend by calling 4780.

(Mrs.) E.R. Phillips

ERP/vw



A Meeting of the PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

Will be held on THURSDAY, July 14, 1988, at 2:00 p.m.

in Room 3-15 University Hall

A G E N D A

	<u>Attached Numbered Pages</u>
1. Approval of Agenda	
2. Approval of Minutes of June 30, 1988 (to be distributed)	
3. Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences: Admission, Academic Standing and Curriculum Changes (attached)	3. - 3.67
4. Women's Research Centre: Proposal from the Vice-President's (Academic) Advisory Committee on Women's Studies for a Centre Jointly Sponsored by the University of Alberta and Athabasca University (attached)	4. - 4.28
 <u>FOR INFORMATION</u>	
5. Faculty of Education: Proposal for a Giftedness Centre (Reference: PPC May 12, 1988) (attached)	5.
6. Report of the Facilities Development Committee Meeting of July 5, 1988 (to be distributed)	
7. Other Business	

In order that quorum may be assured, it is important that you call Evelyn Phillips (432-4733) IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND or if you will be able to attend only a portion of the meeting.

ERP/jdn

July 7, 1988

(For the Planning and Priorities Committee Meeting of July 14, 1988)

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

Outline of the Issues

RE: Women's Research Centre: Proposal from the Vice-President's (Academic) Advisory Committee on Women's Studies for a Centre Jointly Sponsored by the University of Alberta and Athabasca University

ACTION

REQUIRED: To consider the above-noted proposal, endorsed by ADC on June 22, 1988, for the establishment of a Women's Research Centre.

Note 1: The Planning and Priorities Committee is responsible for making recommendations to General Faculties Council on the establishment of new centres.

Note 2: On May 31, 1988, Associate Vice-President (Research) Scarfe wrote to Dr. Assheton-Smith with respect to funding sources for the proposed Centre. A copy of this letter is attached as pages 4.18 - 4.19. Dr. Scarfe refers to WISEST and to the Women's Studies Program in the Faculty of Arts and information concerning these programs is attached.

Note 3: On June 23, 1988, the Vice-President Academic of Athabasca University wrote a letter of support for the proposed Women's Research Centre; a copy of that letter is attached as page 4.24.

Note 4: The terms of reference and a list of members of the Women's Studies Committee are attached as pages 4.16 and 4.17.

The Draft Minute of ADC's June 22, 1988 discussion is attached as pages 4.25 - 4.28.

ERP/lem

July 6, 1988

(For the Planning and Priorties Committee Meeting of July 14, 1988)



to: Dr. Marilyn Assheton-Smith
Department of Educational Foundations

from: Vice-President (Academic)

subject: Proposal for a Women's Research Centre

date: May 17, 1988

our file

your file



Dear Dr. Assheton-Smith:

Thank you for submitting the revised Proposal for a Women's Research Centre. As I mentioned to you, I have not had an opportunity of discussing this with Dr. Paul at Athabasca University, but will do so before it is discussed by the Academic Development Committee. Given our respective calendars, I don't think it will be possible to discuss this until the middle of June.

By copy of this letter to Mrs. Evelyn Phillips, Coordinator of the Academic Development Committee, I am requesting that she add it to an ADC meeting scheduled for mid-June. As I mentioned to you on the telephone, funds have been distributed for this year and I doubt very much that any university funding will be possible in the 1988-89 academic year. Nevertheless, this would not prevent the matter from being discussed by the appropriate university bodies. Since there are space and financial implications, it would go from ADC to PPC.

Please extend to the members of the committee my congratulations on putting together an excellent proposal.

Yours sincerely,

J. Peter Meekison

JPM/dg

c.c. Mrs. E. Phillips ✓
University Secretariat

4.2

PROPOSAL FOR
A
WOMEN'S RESEARCH CENTRE
JOINTLY SPONSORED BY
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
AND
ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

The Vice-President's (Academic) Advisory Committee on Women's Studies
The University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta

March 22, 1988

Table of Contents

1. Background	1
2. Research Objectives of the Centre	2
3. Rationale for a Women's Research Centre	3
4. Research Agenda	4
5. Structure of the Centre	6
5.1 Administrative and Working Organization	6
5.2 Space and facilities	7
6. Finances	7
7. Concluding Comments	11
Appendix: Selected List of On-Going Women's Research Topics and Researchers	12

1. Background

This document will present a proposal for the establishment of a Women's Research Centre sponsored jointly by Athabasca University and the University of Alberta. This research centre will function as a focal point for feminist research in both universities and in the larger community.

Feminist research is defined as research for women, rather than research on women or by women. This implies a clear recognition of a value orientation, an orientation to improving the situation of women in our society and in the world community. However, it does not necessarily imply applied research. Much of feminist research challenges existing models of knowledge in the university and proposes alternatives to those models; such research is clearly research "for women" in spite of the fact it occurs within disciplines such as philosophy or literature or anthropology or other fields of primary knowledge.

In that feminist research is "for" women rather than "on" women, its domain extends to many areas of study. It may include analyses of political institutions, economic structures, ecological relations, or dozens of other phenomena which impact upon women. It differs from other research in these same areas by the constant question, how does this phenomenon or current knowledge about it affect women? Or how is this phenomenon experienced by women?

Margrit Eichler provides a succinct description of such research:

At the most fundamental level, feminist scholarship is committed to understanding and improving the situation of women. It starts from the premise that all scholarship is necessarily value-oriented and that more often than not a lack of feminist consciousness results in sexist theories and descriptions. Identifying and criticizing sexist elements in the existing literature is therefore an important part of feminist work. Once a critique has been achieved, and basic data have been collected, new concepts and models are created, either to express female experiences, or to encompass the experiences of both sexes. The latter can only be achieved after the former has been partially done. In either case, feminist work eventually gropes towards a new epistemology which allows for the adequate understanding of female and male life (1985:624).

By implication, feminist research and analysis not only critiques knowledge within disciplines but often transcends the boundaries of disciplines.

Feminist scholarship is well represented at the University of Alberta and Athabasca University, through the teaching, publishing and research of individual academics in various departments and Faculties. Nonetheless there is a need for a support system which could be provided through a formalized institute or research centre. Such a centre would encourage cross-fertilization and collaboration and would provide a mechanism for obtaining research grants. It would also establish a visibility for feminist scholarship which would attract students and international

visiting scholars.

To begin to address these needs, a number of steps have already been taken by the vice-president's coordinating committee on women's studies. For example, throughout the 1987-88 academic year potential funding sources have been explored and a number of seminars have been sponsored. In these seminars, feminist researchers in the universities and the community have gathered to present and analyze on-going research. It is time for this foundation to be developed into a formal research structure. We propose then that the two Universities establish a Women's Research Centre to enrich and facilitate the work of scholars doing feminist studies on these campuses and to facilitate collaboration between academic women and community-based women in the development of knowledge.

2. Research Objectives of the Centre

The centre would have the following objectives:

- a) to provide a centre for critical disciplinary and interdisciplinary feminist research open to university and community researchers.
- b) to contribute to the building of a knowledge base in women's studies, especially on topics particularly pertinent to women of Alberta, Western Canada and the North.
- c) to continually develop and reassess feminist research methodologies, especially interdisciplinary methodologies.
- d) to make research results accessible, especially to those involved in university teaching, to community women's groups and to government agencies and departments with social policy mandates.

In addition the research centre would:

- a) provide an infrastructure to facilitate the research of academics, students, and women's groups and provide a mutually supportive environment for feminist research.
- b) provide a structure for developing funding proposals, bringing together researchers and potential research funds, and receiving and administering funds for women's research.
- c) provide a home for visitors engaged in feminist research (for example, academics on sabbatical or study leaves, independent researchers on research grants, researchers involved in large-scale projects for community groups)

3. Rationale for a Women's Research Centre

It is apparent that women's research centres within universities contribute both to the ability of those universities to acquire funds for related research and to the development of a critical mass of feminist researchers in academic communities. The best known and most obvious example in Canada today is the work currently done at OISE by scholars such as Margrit Eichler, Dorothy Smith, Mary O'Brien and Jeri Wine. Although these academics have quite different theoretical orientations, they complement and challenge each others work precisely because of their focus within feminism and because they work from the same institutional setting. This setting is a graduate school only, and resembles more closely a research structure than a standard university programme. In fact there has been no equivalent development of research at the University of Toronto in spite of the fact there are interested scholars there. OISE scholars currently hold well over one million dollars in SSHRC research grants for feminist research. We believe that a research centre at these two Alberta Universities could not only do as well, but could draw on a much wider potential for interdisciplinary research than OISE is able to do.

Other research centres and institutes in Canada further suggest the importance of such institutions for facilitating women's research. Mount Saint Vincent's Institute for the Study of Women has developed projects in women and development and received significant funds from CIDA. Universite Laval has formed the GREMF (Groupe de recherche multidisciplinaire feministe) and L'Universite du Quebec a Montreal has created GIERF (Groupe interdisciplinaire pour l'enseignement et la recherche feministes) to both support and identify funds for research. In the case of GIERF a major contractual arrangement has been made with Relais Femmes, an independent association of women's groups in Montreal, to ensure collaborative research can be done between academic women and women working in the community.

There are no equivalent structures in Western Canada (there is a national Women's Research Centre in Vancouver, but it does not have a base in any University). There are rumours and beginnings of other centres, but Athabasca University and the University of Alberta could now take the lead in developing a centre which would both benefit by the kind of work being done in eastern Canada and identify new directions for women's research. In particular, a joint centre of the nature proposed here would have a number of benefits for both institutions and for women in the surrounding communities.

A joint research centre would build upon the experience the two universities had in working together to develop the proposal for the Western Canadian Chair in Women's Studies. Each university would bring to the centre different and special strengths. The University of Alberta has relatively large numbers of active feminist scholars, dispersed throughout many faculties. It has a reputation as a world class university, and would bring to this partnership academics working within that tradition and reputation. Athabasca University is an internationally recognized university specializing in distance education. Because of its distance education mandate it has developed expertise in delivering education to groups which do not normally have access to post-secondary institutions, such as northerners and women in rural and isolated communities. Many of the methods used for distance education can be adapted and used in collaborative research with women's groups, or in disseminating research findings.

4. Research Agenda

Although the exact program by which research centre objectives might be achieved will vary, depending on the funding and the researchers who become involved in the institute, we would like to describe here some possible directions which the research might follow. A specific research agenda (in the sense of topics for research) would not be set out in advance for the institute; rather associates of the institute would bring their individual and existing women's research interests into the institute. An appendix is attached listing the research currently being done by members of the committee and a few other academic members of the two universities; this provides the clearest example of the kind of work which would be carried out but at a higher level as a result of interaction within the centre.

The fall and winter presentations of research have included such diverse topics as women's depression, becoming a mother, research which is preparation for doing documentary films, research on education and employment of Indian and Metis women, women's biographies (both being written as academic work per se and being written as part of developing an understanding of the history of family members), and explorations of women's consciousness.

But what are other possible projects which we could see in the future? A project might begin with any researcher, so it could be in medicine, nursing, law, science, literature, psychology, or in applied concerns related to rape crisis centres, battered women's shelters, women and pensions and so on, but the following are possibilities.

1. Among the women who have been active in Alberta history probably the "famous five" are the best known. But these five women represent but a tiny fraction of women who have tried to create social change through political action of various forms, from organized protest groups to lobbying governments and participating in political parties. One major direction for interdisciplinary research would be to analyze this activity, both as a historical and contemporary phenomenon, to determine the causes and consequences of such activity and to propose alternative models for political action. At least some of this research could be in the form of "action research" as that term is used by the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, as women actively engaged in trying to create some political change could participate at the same time with academics in a reflective research process.

2. As women's groups and governments identify major issues of concern, and funds are made available for related research, some particular issues could form the basis for long-term research in the institute. In these cases, it might be preferable to hire research staff specifically for such work. For example, there is currently a concern with child-care arrangements in Canada and proposals to fund large-scale research in this area. Violence against women has received similar public attention, as have economic factors influencing women's lives (employment discrimination, the structure of pension arrangements and so on). Although this research, by its nature, must be applied in its focus, it would be greatly enhanced by occurring in an environment in which theoretical issues are raised.

3. In the literary and fine arts areas there is much research today on the language used in relation to women, women's language in poetry and prose, and the images of women in film and art. There are obvious relationships between this work and concerns of women active in the community about pornography, violence against women, and the sexual objectification of women. An interdisciplinary women's research institute would enable the various researchers working in all of these areas to both do their within discipline work and to discuss their work with each other and with women attempting to impact on the situation in the community.

4. Michelle Harrison discusses PMS as a complex of symptoms related to women's menstrual cycle, but in her discussion she makes it quite clear that we do not know the relationship of PMS to social structure, for cross-cultural studies on menstrual cycles are extremely rare. That recognition which pervades her work, the recognition that physiological phenomena may well be deeply embedded in the gender structure of societies characterizes her research as feminist. It does not characterize it as interdisciplinary, for she herself focuses only on the medical aspects of the syndrome. In an interdisciplinary women's research institute in which a researcher was interested in this topic, we could work to bring her insight together with the research of sociologists and anthropologists into gender structuring and its impact on physiological phenomena. Such work does not necessarily require international research, for it can be done by research with women from religious enclaves such as Hutterites, women from various classes, and with women from minority cultural groups, to suggest but a few examples.

5. Women's groups in the community have a continuing need for what might be called small-scale research, or information gathering. The research centre would bring together these groups and graduate students who could do some of this work as part of their paper-writing and thesis work, possibly for a small fee paid to the student or as part of a research assistantship funded by the centre. Some of this work might well be done by undergraduate students in women's studies courses, enhancing their academic studies at the universities.

6. In the women's movement women are beginning to address issues of race, racism, and cultural differences. It is not the case that all women experience their situation as women in the same way, and for many women that means addressing problems of knowledge which are specific to their racial, ethnic, or cultural groups. The research centre would make it possible for this diversity of women's experience to be addressed by academic research, and addressed in a way which would be useful to the women involved.

7. Finally, research methodologies themselves would be an integral component of the centre's research agenda. Dr. Ursula Franklin, a metallurgist from the University of Toronto, argued while she was in Edmonton in 1987 that the most essential aspect of feminist research is that it continually takes context into account. That is, it is unlike analytical research, or the standard model of science, in which phenomena can be understood in terms of models which consist of ideal or logical relations. This set of ideas is not unique to feminist work but they are central to such work; the implication is that methodologies must continually make it possible to address context.

Dr. Franklin also remarked that, given the well-developed nature of quantitative methodologies in the sciences, and their basis within rigid disciplinary

boundaries, alternative methodologies based in multi-disciplinary work will initially seem inadequate to many people. She suggested some of our most important work may well be in clarifying and developing those methodologies as we do our work. When we begin a project the methodology might not always be clear, but it would then be essential to bring that methodology into focus before the work was completed and to make it a major topic for discussion. This kind of work may well be some of the most important research which is conducted at the centre, research which will enable us to address the epistemological and methodological questions raised by Eichler (above) and by others such as Allison Jaggar and Sandra Harding.

5. Structure of the Centre

5.1. Administrative and Working Organization

We would recommend that the membership of the centre be made up of those academics and community women who are engaged in or interested in feminist research and that the administrative structure consist of a co-ordinating committee and a paid staff. The co-ordinating committee would be composed of seven members, two appointed from the membership by the appropriate vice-presidents of each of the sponsoring universities and three selected by centre members. Their terms would be for from two to four years, with terms staggered to ensure there was continuity on the committee, and they would elect the chairperson from among themselves. The selection process for this committee would ensure that there was reasonable representation from the various women's groups involved, including a diversity of faculties in the universities, women in the community, and students of the two universities.

The co-ordinating committee would report annually to the appropriate vice-president of each university, and would meet at least twice a year with the members of the centre to discuss the on-going research work and administration of the centre. Its terms of reference would include the acceptance of applications for membership in the institute and the development of research projects. The committee would also arrange for dissemination of research results, and further other objectives of the institute not clearly covered by these three tasks. Other terms of reference would be to ensure that the institute as a physical plant was kept operating, that an adequate budget was developed and followed, that additional funds (both from within and outside the university) were sought to ensure the work of the institute, and generally to oversee the research institute as a functioning administrative unit.

The volume of work which we anticipate at the centre would necessitate the hiring of at least two employees, a director and a secretary. The first should be an academic position; under the direction of the Research Coordinating Committee she would have responsibility for fund-raising, mediating between the universities and the community, establishing a high-profile centre which would be inviting to international scholars, and she would be an information resource to both researchers and to individuals and groups who want specific research done. She would also manage the day to day operations of the centre, develop annual budgets, and ensure that feminist researchers and community workers were knowledgeable about the centre. She would, of course, be expected to maintain

her own research agenda within the framework of the centre's general orientation.

The secretary would ensure that necessary accounting, paper work, and filing was done. She would also take responsibility for maintaining the centre in the absence of the director, and would carry out other duties which would assist researchers in their work. Other employees would be added as researchers and research assistants when funds were available, either through contracts, endowment funds, or university base budgeting.

5.2. Space and facilities

The space needs for the centre would be office space for researchers, and office for the director and the secretary. In addition, a seminar room would be needed for meetings of the centre, and there should be facilities for the preparation of coffee and snacks (especially for evening research meetings which will be necessary for community women to attend). There should be three to five research offices to get the centre started. We anticipate that these needs will expand, but it is difficult to say to what extent at the moment. Given the need to develop a particular milieu, a centre in which communication and cooperation are enhanced, one of the houses on the University of Alberta campus would be the preferred location.

As a first stage office equipment needs will include desks, filing cabinets, and book-cases for each person who has an office in the centre, and a seminar table with comfortable chairs. It will also be necessary to have telephones and a copying machine, and microcomputers with a connection to hyperbus for library search and use of the mainframes. The director and secretary would also work with microcomputers rather than typewriters, so that all information to be shared could be shared electronically, and so that researchers could request the secretary to edit and prepare for final printing files which had been prepared on disk. Ideally, there should be one laser printer on a computer network within the centre, and dot-matrix printers shared by every two computers. This kind of computer structure is now essential, we believe, for developing a research centre and for enabling such centres to communicate with others across the country (and the world). As research based in visual images rather than print media develops, there should be a slide projector, screen, television, videocamera and videocassette recorder.

We would keep copies of all research done within the centre, perhaps on disk and in hard-copy format, and make these copies available to interested people, but we would rely on the library systems of the two Universities and the Women's Resource Centre for maintaining books and documents. That is, when researchers have funds to buy books or documents which will not be personally owned, those books and documents will be purchased for the library systems or the resource room, or turned over to them after research is completed.

6. Finances

Financial arrangements for the centre will include initial start-up costs and annual operating costs. In the initial year (88-89), the research centre must be

furnished and equipped; while these requirements are costed in the budget we expect that they can be met from existing university pools and will not represent a substantial new cost to either institution.

With respect to operating costs, we propose that the two universities reach a cost-sharing arrangement to provide the research centre with an annual operating budget that would maintain a satisfactory minimal level of activity and provide the support needed to seek external funding. We are presenting here two budget scenarios, one which requests specific funding from the two universities, and one which indicates the larger plans for the centre based on a search for external funding.

Budget Scenario I, then, is a "bare-bones" budget which will permit us to proceed in a small way until we are able to access other sources of funding. It is a budget that takes into account the current fiscal realities facing the two universities.

Budget Scenario I

Year one (1988-89)

Capital equipment

Five desks, filing cabinets, and bookcases@1,200	6,000.00
Seminar table@1,500	1,500.00
Chairs, 30@150	4,500.00
Copying machine@5,000	5,000.00
Computers, 4@4,000	16,000.00
Laser printer	4,000.00
	<u>*Subtotal=\$37,000.00</u>

Operating Costs

Purchase of one course off for a Centre Director	4,500.00
Clerical assistance, 20 hours/week	11,000.00
Computer and telecommunications costs	600.00
Mailing and Materials	1,200.00
Space, including telephone, maintenance, etc.**	4,288.00
	<u>Subtotal=\$21,588.00</u>

* It is assumed that many of these items will come from in-kind donations from university pools. New resource outlays are unlikely.

** The space figure is based on using a Garneau area house on the University of Alberta campus, costed at \$2.68 per square foot for 1600 square feet.

Budget Scenario II

Budget scenario II is the cost of establishing and maintaining an excellent women's research centre, and is the target budget for the centre. However, in the

current fiscal environment, it will only be possible if funds can be raised from sources outside of the universities. We will approach various government departments, both provincial and federal, and we have been given some encouragement in regards to funding from these sources. In addition, as with other research institutes, major research grants will be sought to cover some of the costs, such as the funds proposed for research assistants and graduate research assistants. Finally, the private sector will be approached for donations, both to an endowment fund and to operating costs which may be matched by the province.

Year one (1988-89)

Capital equipment

Five desks, filing cabinets, and bookcases@1,200	6,000.00
Seminar table@1,500	1,500.00
Chairs, 30@150	4,500.00
Copying machine@5,000	5,000.00
Computers, 4@4,000	16,000.00
Laser printer	4,000.00
	<u>Subtotal=\$37,000.00</u>

Operating Costs

Director (incl benefits)	45,000.00
Executive/Secretary (incl benefits)	24,000.00
Mainframe computer and telecommunications costs	1,200.00
Telephone and Mailing	1,200.00
Materials (paper, photocopying, etc.)	2,400.00
Space, including telephone, maintenance, etc.	4,288.00
	<u>Subtotal=\$78,088.00</u>

Year Two

Capital Costs

Computers, 2@4,000	8,000.00
Networking costs (Phonenet or equivalent)	2,000.00
	<u>Subtotal=\$10,000.00</u>

Operating Costs

Director (incl benefits)	47,000.00
Executive/Secretary (incl benefits)	26,000.00
Research assistant, 1@30,000	30,000.00
Research assistants (grad students), 3@11,000	33,000.00
Mainframe computer and telecommunications	3,000.00
Telephone and Mailing	1,500.00
Materials	4,000.00
Space, including telephone, maintenance, etc.	4,288.00
	<u>Subtotal=\$148,788.00</u>

Year Three

Capital Costs

Computers, 2@4,000

8,000.00

Subtotal=\$8,000.00

Operating Costs

Director (incl benefits)

49,000.00

Executive Secretary (incl benefits)

28,000.00

Research assistant, 2@30,000

60,000.00

Research assistants (grad students), 6@11,000

66,000.00

Mainframe computer and telecommunications

4,800.00

Telephone and Mailing

2,000.00

Materials

8,000.00

Space, including telephone, maintenance, etc.

4,288.00

Subtotal=\$222,088.00

Year Four

Operating Costs

Director (incl benefits)

51,000.00

Executive Secretary (incl benefits)

30,000.00

Research assistant, 2@30,000

60,000.00

Research assistants (grad students), 10@11,000

110,000.00

Mainframe computer and telecommunications

6,000.00

Telephone and Mailing

2,500.00

Materials

9,000.00

Space, including telephone, maintenance, etc.

4,288.00

Subtotal=\$272,788.00

Year Five

Operating Costs

Director (incl benefits)

53,000.00

Executive/Secretary (incl benefits)

32,000.00

Research assistant, 2@30,000

60,000.00

Research assistants (grad students), 10@11,000

110,000.00

Mainframe computer and telecommunications

7,000.00

Telephone and Mailing

3,500.00

Materials

10,000.00

Space, including telephone, maintenance, etc.

4,288.00

Subtotal=\$279,788.00

7. Concluding Comments

Women's research is an exploding area of scholarly work, as any perusal of bookstore shelves and periodicals would suggest. The University of Alberta and Athabasca University have an excellent opportunity to develop a women's research centre which is unique in Canada, and which would make a major contribution to this relatively new area of knowledge. This could be a research centre which is both "world-class" in the best sense of that term and also firmly rooted in the social and historical milieu, and indeed the women, of this province. It would serve the needs of scholars to meet and share their work, the needs of graduate students to become familiar with and participate in research projects, and the needs of community groups for issue-focused applied research.

Appendix: Selected List of On-Going Women's Research Topics and Researchers

- Assheton-Smith, Marilyn. (University of Alberta) Native Women, Education and Employment.
- Austin, Lisa. (Graduate Student) Images of Women in Eighteenth Century Literature.
- Bergum, Vangie. (University of Alberta) On Becoming a Mother.
- Bray, Cathy and Marilyn Assheton-Smith. (University of Alberta) Computerizing Information Flow in Women's Organizations (Action Research).
- Cavanaugh, Cathy. (Athabasca University, Community) Irene Parlby's Story.
- Chown, Diana. (Community) The Life of Alice Chown.
- Coulter, Rebecca. (Athabasca University) Women's Bibliography; Work on Adolescent Women and Employment.
- Elliott, Bridget. (University of Alberta) Images of Women in Art.
- Holmgren, Marj. (University of Alberta) Women's Experience of Depression.
- Manneschmidt, Sybil. (Graduate Student) Menstrual Experience and Social Status of Women.
- Mott, Robyn. (Graduate Student) Premenstrual Changes as Experienced by Women.
- Penrod, Lynn. (University of Alberta) French Feminist Theory; Maternity, Madness and Mortality in French and French-Canadian Women's Writing.
- Potrebenko, Mary. (Community) Women and Health.
- Spronk, Barbara. (Athabasca University) Native Women and Education.
- Stewart, Leslie. (Graduate Student) The Denigration of Women in Sport.
- Williamson, Janice. (University of Alberta) Writing: Feminist Theory and Literary Criticism.

WOMEN'S STUDIES

- PURPOSE:
1. To gather information on the various initiatives re women's studies at the University of Alberta.
 2. To disseminate this information widely on campus and elsewhere as appropriate;
 3. To co-ordinate the development of new and existing activities to avoid duplication and work towards a balanced approach to the subject.
 4. To advise on policy at the University of Alberta with regard to the development of women's studies as an academic program; and
 5. To undertake liaison with other interested groups and individuals, where no other mechanism exists at the University of Alberta.

MEETINGS: At the call of the Chair.

MEMBERSHIP: Appointments made by letter from the Vice-President (Academic).

- Six members of the academic staff each for a 3 year term (2 new appointments per year); selected in such a way that no more than two come from the same Faculty and no more than one from each Department.

CHAIRMAN: Chairman to be selected for a one-year term from within this group, by the group.

Co-chairs for the term July 1, 1987 to June 30, 1988:

Dr. Marilyn Assheton-Smith, Educational Foundations
Dr. Rosemary Liburd, Student Counselling Services

permanent guest/observers

- Director of the Women's Program, Faculty of Extension
- Co-ordinator of Women's Programs, Athabasca University
- Director of Alberta Women's Secretariat or representative

ADVISER: Vice-President (Academic) or designate

REPORTS: Copy of annual report required:

- Vice-President (Academic)

4.17

Coordinating Committee on Women's Studies

November 24, 1987

Marilyn Assheton-Smith *
Educational Foundations
5-166 Education North
Ph. 2556, 437-2269

Lisa Austin
English
Graduate Student
Ph. 455-0072

Vangie Bergum
Nursing
434 Garneau Professional Building
Ph. 2402

Cathy Bray
Women's Program Extension
11019-90 Avenue
Ph. 3093

Sande Copeland
Canadian Studies
Undergraduate Student
c/o 11019-90 Avenue
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Bridget Elliott
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Anne Lambert
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Jean Lauber
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2515 Biological Sciences
Ph. 5490

Rosemary Liburd *
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102 Athabasca Hall
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Robin Mott
Educational Psychology
Graduate Student
102 Athabasca Hall
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Hope Olson
Library
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Lynn Penrod
Romance Languages
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Community member
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Janice Williamson
English
Humanities 3-54
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Staff
Leslie Stewart
Administrative Coordinator
11019-90 Avenue
Ph. 3093, 439-2142

* Co-chairs



4.18

to: Dr. M. Assheton-Smith
Dept. of Educational Foundations
104 Education North

from: Dr. Brian L. Scarfe
Associate Vice-President (Research)
3-3 University Hall

subject: PROPOSAL FOR A WOMEN'S RESEARCH CENTRE

date: May 31 1988

our file:

your file:



I am responding to your telephone call of last week which referred to Dr. Meekison's letter to you of May 19th, 1988, with respect to funding sources for the proposed Women's Research Centre.

The proposal is an impressive one, which I am fully confident should meet with ADC support when it reaches that committee in June. I was, however, a little surprised that no direct connections were made with the existing Women's Studies program in the Faculty of Arts (see calendar 43.24 and 44.43), or to the important work of our standing committee -- Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology -- WISEST, which has received both moral and (ad hoc) financial support from the Office of the Vice-President (Research) over the past few years. Perhaps it would be useful for the key spokespersons for each of these groups to meet with Dr. Meekison and Dr. James and/or myself to ensure the complementarity of each of these initiatives, and to reduce the possibility of any jurisdictional conflicts.

As to external funding sources, I do not know whether you have approached SSHRCC directly, whether you have approached the Alberta Advisory Council on Women's Issues (Margaret Leahey, Chairperson), or whether you have approached the federal government. On the latter, it might well be that the Honourable Joe Clark would be the best contact, even though his ministry would not be directly involved. On the Alberta Advisory Council, direct support of a start-up nature might be forthcoming, but the Council's lobbying role with the appropriate Provincial Government departments could be very effective.

Like Dr. Meekison, I cannot be at all optimistic about the possibility of internal funding. Among other things, we have several outstanding examples of institutes and centres being created on this campus which ostensibly are not to cost the University money. They get created through the Academic Development

...2

4.19

Dr. M. Assheton-Smith. - 2 - May 31st, 1988.

Committee process, but then repeatedly come to this office for on-going financial support. Three such examples are

the Centre for Gerontology,
the Research Institute for Comparative Literature,
and the Theoretical Physics Institute

and there are numerous other examples. As a general rule, therefore, we are somewhat concerned about the creation of new centres and institutes which do not have definite external funding sources identified as part of a coherent financial plan.

Even though the three centres previously mentioned are demonstrably doing quality work, it is not clear that we can guarantee any form of continued support for them in the current financial environment. The Central Research Fund is designed for peer-assessed research project support, and not (as a general rule) for on-going support of research overheads. It has, on occasion, provided limited one-shot seed money to encourage the start-up of new ventures.

In sum, I do not need convincing about the importance of establishing a first-rate Women's Research Centre. But I am concerned about the Centre's on-going financial support base. Should ADC approve the establishment of the Centre, we would consider a request for an initial start-up grant. Given our financial limitations, however, any such grant would come nowhere close to your year one operating budget even under Scenario I, and would, in no way, support your start-up capital budget. Unfortunately, this conclusion reflects a realistic appraisal of our financial situation, and in no way reflects upon the intrinsic importance of the establishment of a Women's Research Centre along the lines set out in your impressive proposal.

Best regards.

Brian L Scarfe

Dr. Brian L. Scarfe.

BLS/rml

cc: Dr. C.R. James
Dr. J.P. Meekison ✓

133. WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM IN THE FACULTY OF ARTS:
RECOMMENDATION FROM PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
(PPC)

Members were asked to consider a proposal for a Women's Studies Program in the Faculty of Arts.

The Secretary noted that new programs were considered in turn by ADC, PPC, the Executive Committee and General Faculties Council in advance of consideration by the Board of Governors.

On July 16, 1986 the proposal was endorsed by ADC, whose suggestions for clarification were incorporated in the proposal, which was considered on September 25 and November 10 by PPC and the Executive Committee respectively. Both Committees recommended that General Faculties Council endorse the Women's Studies Program subject to the availability of an appropriate level of funding.

The proposal, together with the relevant letters of endorsement, are attached to the Official Copy of the Minutes.

Representatives of the Advisory Committee to the Vice-President on Womens' Studies were present for discussion of this item. The Chairman introduced Professors M. Assheton-Smith, P. Clements, J. Lauber and R. Sydie, and A. Hall, Chair of the Advisory Committee.

Vice-President Meekison opened the discussion by thanking the members of the Advisory Committee whose efforts during the past two and a half years, in conjunction with those of the Faculty of Arts, had resulted in the proposal now before members.

Vice-President Meekison said the proposal, which was based on an interdisciplinary approach, was academically sound and he felt it would prove an exciting addition to the University's offerings. It was, he added, his hope and expectation that it would lead to an expansion of course offerings in other Faculties beyond those listed in the proposal.

Vice-President Meekison noted that at present the proposal was essentially for an undergraduate program but that the Advisory Committee to the Vice-President would continue to function and would be developing vigorous research activity on campus during the next few years.

4.20

Questions regarding the possibility of a graduate program had also been raised, Vice-President Meekison said, and initially thought had been given to offering B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. programs simultaneously. However, upon reflection the Committee considered it would be preferable to establish a sound undergraduate program before developing graduate offerings.

The Chairman invited comment from Dean White, who said that the proposal had the full support of the Faculty of Arts Council. Dean White noted that the four-year B.A. program would serve as a framework for the proposed program which would be based on courses currently offered by the Faculty of Arts. Building on that core, several new courses would be initiated so that the whole would form an area of concentration which would be available to students enrolled in a B.A. program.

Dean White said that because Women's Studies was an interdisciplinary program it was proposed to employ the same administrative model which had worked successfully with other interdisciplinary programs in the Faculty of Arts, such as the Canadian Studies Program and the Film Studies Program.

In summation, Dean White said the proposed program for Women's Studies could be viewed as an area of concentration within the four-year B.A. program.

MOTION

It was **MOVED** by Dean White and seconded by Professor Sydie that General Faculties Council endorse the proposal for a program in the Women's Studies in the Faculty of Arts subject to the availability of an appropriate level of funding.

The observation was made by Professor Clements that during the question period of GFC on November 3, 1975 a student member had asked whether any action was planned towards developing a Women's Studies Program at the University. She felt it was interesting and appropriate that the action now being taken by Council was one which had been initiated at a Council meeting, and by a student.

In the general discussion which followed Mr. Berger spoke in favor of thought being given to offering graduate level courses in say one-two years instead of five years, which he understood was the time frame which had been suggested.

Professor Jenkins expressed concern that the University's objective of balanced perspective could be jeopardized by the emphasis placed on the role of women by the courses which would comprise the Women's Studies Program. For example, he questioned how one could examine the role of

women in literature without reference to the role of men. Conceding it might be argued that hitherto insufficient emphasis had been placed on the role of women he nevertheless maintained that to go to the other extreme and teach courses where the sole emphasis was on the role of women would create an equal imbalance.

This view was not shared by Dean White who pointed out that the framework of the four-year B.A. program provided the student with a very broad exposure to a range of courses in the first two years and with the opportunity to specialize in the final two years. Moreover, a number of the courses which would be offered in the program were those which had been developed to meet deficiencies which had been seen in the Faculty's regular curriculum. For example, the Department of History's initiation of a course relating to the History of Women in Canadian society had been developed in order to achieve the balance referred to by Professor Jenkins, since much of the historical focus in that area had hitherto tended to be male dominated.

Dean White reiterated that the proposal did not focus on a new trend but rather it sought to configure existing courses in a particular way which would, with the addition of several new courses, meet what the Faculty saw as a legitimate need.

While expressing support for the concept of the proposal Dean Piper urged that thought be given to the integration of a research component, which she felt was essential to any University program.

Dean White concurred with the point made by Dean Piper. He noted, however, that the proposed new courses included a research methodology course which would be taught by established scholars. Moreover, it was Dean White's understanding that thought was being given to bringing together individuals on campus with common interest in Women's Studies to carry out common research.

**VOTE ON
MOTION**

Following the brief exchange, the question was **PUT** and the **MOTION** to endorse the proposal for a program in the Women's Studies in the Faculty of Arts subject to the availability of an appropriate level of funding was **CARRIED**.

4.21

EXCERPT FROM 1988-89 CALENDAR

43.24 Women's Studies

43.24.1 Concentration in Women's Studies

- (1) The Degree of BA.
 - a. See 43.1.1
 - b. Concentration in Women's Studies requires a minimum of five full-course equivalents and a maximum of seven FCEs at the 300-level or above in W ST and cross-listed Women's Studies courses (see §43.24.1(d)). Required are W ST 300, W ST 400, W ST 401 and one further FCE in cross-listed Women's Studies courses at the 400-level.

Note: Students wishing to concentrate in Women's Studies are counselled to take W ST 300 (FCE) as their Arts option in second year. W ST 300 is a prerequisite for all 300- and 400-level W ST courses, but it is not a prerequisite for cross-listed Women's Studies courses.
 - c. Women's Studies as a second subject requires a minimum of three FCEs in either the W ST or cross-listed Women's Studies courses at the 300 level or above (see §43.24.1(d)), one of which must be W ST 300. The required 400-level FCE must be chosen from either the remaining W ST or cross-listed Women's Studies courses.
 - d. Cross-Listed Courses in Women's Studies
 - 1) 200-level
 - ANTHR 210 Sex, Society and the Individual
 - 2) 300-level
 - CHRT 318 Feminist Theology
 - CLASS 361 Women in Classical Antiquity
 - CLIT 366 Women in World Literature
 - ENGL 395 Women's Literary Tradition
 - FREN 311 Readings from French Women Writers
 - HIST 303 Introduction to the History of Women
 - HIST 371 History of Women in Canadian Society
 - INT D 347 Women and Socialism: USSR and Eastern Europe
 - PHIL 332 Feminist Issues in Political and Social Philosophy
 - POL S 350 Women and Politics: A Comparative Perspective
 - SOC 301 Sociology of Sex Roles
 - 3) 400-level
 - ANTHR 410 Sex and Status in Comparative Perspective
 - CANST 401 Seminar in Canadian Studies (Canadian Feminism: Contexts and Critiques)
 - FREN 490 Women Writers in France
 - HIST 413 Women in Modern European History
 - HIST 470 Topics in Canadian Social History (Women and the Family)
 - JAPAN 417 Women's Literature in Japan
 - SOC 491 Gender Stratification and Differentiation

Note: These courses cannot be used by students concentrating in Women's Studies to fulfill the requirement for the second subject of the BA (AR20) degree.

44.43 Women's Studies

44.43.1 Senior Courses

- W ST 300 Introduction to Women's Studies
 - 6 (3-0-0). A survey and analysis of issues concerning women's lives, both historically and in the present; an account of the development of feminist theories and critiques, and an assessment of the contribution this new scholarship has made in transforming received knowledge in a variety of disciplines. Not available to first-year students.
- W ST 301 History of Feminist Thought
 - 3 (either term, 3-0-0). The development of feminist thought and theories from the eighteenth to the twentieth century, including the contributions of, and tensions between various feminisms. Prerequisite: W ST 300.
- W ST 302 Feminist Research and Methodologies
 - 3 (either term, 3-0-0). Whether there can be and is a distinctive feminist perspective on research in various disciplines; the ways in which taking a feminist perspective, or taking account of women in research, affects the research process. Prerequisite: W ST 300.
- W ST 400 Interdisciplinary Women's Studies Seminar
 - 3 (either term, 0-3-0). Prerequisite: W ST 300.
- W ST 401 Senior Project in Women's Studies
 - 3 (either term, 0-3-0). Prerequisite: W ST 300.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

WOMEN IN SCHOLARSHIP, ENGINEERING, SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY, TASK FORCE ON - WISEST

PURPOSE: 1) To suggest means to correct the under-representation of women in these fields.

MEETINGS: At call of the chair, minimum of 4 per year.

MEMBERSHIP: Members are appointed by the Vice-President (Research).
Committee chairman is the Vice-President (Research).

MEMBERS: ex officio

Chair Vice-President (Research)

C.R. James

appointed - no fixed term

Dr. Sharon M. Abu-Laban	Sociology
Dr. Theresa M. Allen	Pharmacology
Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour	Chemistry
Mrs. Doris Badir	Office of the President
Dr. Sheila Bertram	Library Science
Ms. Rebecca Bjustrom	Research Services
Dr. Lois Browne	Chemistry
Mrs. Muriel Cheriton	Optum Group, Consultant
Dr. Dallas M. Cullen	Organizational Analysis
Dr. Ann Marie Decore	Educational Foundations
Ms. Pat DeZutter	Alta. Women's Secretariat
Dr. Linda Fedigan	Anthropology
Dr. Susan Jackel	Canadian Studies
Dr. Heidi J. Kass	Secondary Education
Dr. Janet C. Kerr	Nursing
Dr. Linda Lange	Boreal Institute
Ms. E. McClintock	Advanced Education
Dr. Nelly McEwen	Alberta Education
Ms. P. McWilliams	Science Teacher
Dr. Frederick Morrison	Family Studies
Ms. Elizabeth Stinson	
Dr. Dorothy Tovell	Biochemistry
Ms. M.J.R. Watson	Northwestern Utilities

REPORTS: One copy of annual report for Vice-President (Research).

4.24

Athabasca University



June 23, 1988

Dr. J. Peter Meekison
Vice-President, Academic
University of Alberta
3rd Floor University Hall
Edmonton, Alberta
T6G 2J9

Dear Peter:

Further to our recent meeting about the proposed Women's Research Centre, jointly sponsored by our two universities, I am writing to confirm Athabasca University's strong endorsement for this venture.

A product of several years of informal collaboration between the two institutions, the Research Centre proposal has been approved by our Arts and Sciences Council and would serve a valuable role in supporting the development of our programme in Women's Studies.

Athabasca University is willing to contribute its share of the operating expenses and to help secure the necessary capital equipment, notably microcomputers, to ensure the success of this joint venture. I assume that the particulars of our respective contributions will be formalized in a letter of agreement once it has received the necessary endorsement at the University of Alberta.

Thank you very much for your leadership and support in the implementation of this proposal. I look forward to confirmation of its approval.

Yours sincerely,

Ross H. Paul, Ph.D.
Vice-President Academic

RHP/ch



4. WOMEN'S RESEARCH CENTRE: PROPOSAL FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S (ACADEMIC) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S STUDIES FOR A CENTRE JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA AND ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

Members were asked to consider the above-noted proposal for the establishment of a Women's Research Centre.

The Coordinator had noted in the Outline of the Issues that the Academic Development Committee was responsible for making recommendations to the Planning & Priorities Committee for the establishment of new centres or institutes, and assignment of priorities for their establishment.

It was also noted that, on May 31 1988, Associate Vice-President (Research) B.L. Scarfe had written to Dr. Assheton-Smith with respect to funding sources for the proposed Centre. In his letter, Dr. Scarfe referred to the Task Force on Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology (WISEST) and to the Women's Studies Program in the Faculty of Arts. Information concerning these programs, as well as Dr. Scarfe's letter, were before members.

Also before members were the terms of reference and a list of members of the Women's Studies Committee.

The Chair said that, if approved, the proposal would be forwarded to the Planning & Priorities Committee. He added that he had spoken with Dr. R. Paul of Athabasca University, who had indicated that that institution was committed to the Centre and was willing to contribute to its operating and capital costs. Housing of the Centre would be at the University of Alberta and the University's share of the operating costs would probably be larger, he said.

Co-Chairs of the Women's Studies Committee, Dr. M. Assheton-Smith (Department of Educational Foundations) and Dr. R. Liburd (Student Counselling), joined the discussion.

Dr. Assheton-Smith said that work on this endeavor had been on-going for a number of years. She said that the Advisory Committee on Women's Studies had met as a research institute once a month since October 1987. Dr. Assheton-Smith noted that the listing of current research activities on campus had been provided to give an idea of the diversity of research that would be possible in this Centre. The research would be focussed on issues that affect women and as women experience them, she said.

Dr. Liburd said that the group now had space in a house in Garneau, although the meetings were previously held in the Faculty of Extension's Women's Program office.

A member asked if the research done at the Centre would be predominantly in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities and Dr. Assheton-Smith said that there was also interest in research in Nursing, Business, Education and Science. Dr. Liburd said that the Centre would be interdisciplinary.

A member asked if the objective of carrying out feminist research "for" women (that might challenge existing models of knowledge in the

University) was why the proposal was not more fully integrated with the WISEST group. He asked why the Centre seemed to be isolated from the University, even in terms of the proposed location, which might not promote interaction with the academic stream.

Dr. Assheton-Smith said that WISEST was "an organization which attempted to improve opportunities for women in science, engineering and technology. She said that WISEST's focus was quite different from the Centre's objective of building a knowledge base derived from research; however, there was interaction between WISEST and her group.

As a member of WISEST, Dr. Cullen said that the organization encouraged opportunities and support for women and men in non-traditional areas, particularly in terms of supporting the educational process regarding high school and University students. WISEST did not focus on research, she said.

Regarding Arts' Women's Studies program, Dr. Liburd said that there was representation from her committee to the Faculty of Arts. Dr. Assheton-Smith said that the proposal had been sent informally to Dr. S. Neuman of the Women's Studies program. There had never been a suggestion for a formal link, she said, because members of both groups were already communicating informally.

A member asked if students might be allowed to serve as research assistants in the proposed Centre as part of course credit in the Women's Studies program. Dr. Assheton-Smith said that the Advisory Committee on Women's Studies wanted research assistantships available for women working in women's/feminist studies in any Faculty in the University.

Observing that much of the research would be phenomenological and qualitative in approach, one member asked if this would affect the Centre's academic credibility. Dr. Assheton-Smith said that the research would tend to emphasize qualitative approaches, since such methods were seen to identify variables that might not be identifiable by other procedures. She said that contemporary feminist researchers recognized the importance of statistical work and that such research need not be confined to a single methodological approach.

A member supported the idea that the Centre would not be attached to any one Faculty, as well as the idea of research assistantships being available from the Centre to students in any Faculty, or vice versa.

Another member asked if it would be impossible to do research studies within other Faculties on women's issues. Dr. Liburd said that, while such research would continue to be carried out in Faculties, the Centre would organize it so that it would be supportive and collaborative instead of being isolated. Dr. Assheton-Smith said that a Centre would enable researchers to take an interdisciplinary approach. Although such research would not be restricted to the Centre, she said, the organization would bring researchers together.

A member expressed concern that men would be excluded from carrying out research related to women's issues at the facility. Dr. Assheton-Smith

said that men would not be excluded but that it was her personal hope that, for the first year or so, the emphasis would be on women engaging in research activities at the Centre.

Regarding the relationship between the Centre and the Women's Program in the Faculty of Extension, Dr. Assheton-Smith said that the latter provided a service to women in the community and was an adult educational service, while the former would have a research focus. Dr. Liburd said that Extension had established a Resource Centre which collected and disseminated information regarding women. In future, she added, some research at the Centre might be made available to more women through the Resource Centre.

In conclusion, Dr. Assheton-Smith said that the Committee was aware of the financial difficulties of establishing the Centre and she added that, if the Centre was approved, a major task would be to find donations.

The Chair thanked the guests, who then withdrew.

A member asked how graduate students might relate to the Centre in terms of research, as opposed to, for example, the Department of Sociology. The Chair said that this would vary but that the probability would be that students' supervisors might advise them to become involved with the Centre. Students might also be able to obtain financial assistance (primarily through the supervisor) from the Centre. He added that the Centre might welcome anyone with research interests along feminist lines and would provide a focal point for research and collaboration on campus.

One member noted that more funding could be available to students, should the Centre be approved, which would not have been possible without such a structure.

Another member said that the nature of work done at the Centre would allow people to get together with researchers in other fields, which was less likely when there was no facility for such collaboration. Arts' degree program was unable to fulfill this need, she said.

The Chair clarified that the Centre would not offer a degree. Four years ago, he said, the Women's Studies Committee was established with the mandate to, among other things, advise on policy at the University of Alberta with regard to the development of women's studies as an academic program. The Committee had considered proposing the establishment of a degree-granting research centre, but had decided that this endeavor would be too complex, he said. An alternative was developed of offering a Women's Studies program in Arts, which excluded possibilities for a graduate studies program and a research capacity. This proposal, therefore, had stemmed from the need to develop research in the field, he concluded.

Regarding the Graduate Students' Association, Ms. Strang said that a task force had been established a year ago to consider the development of a graduate program in Women's Studies. So far, she said, surveys (of undergraduate and graduate students and faculty) yielded a positive

response to a graduate program in this area. If such a proposal eventually was approved by GSA, she said, it would be sent to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research for approval.

MOTION

It was MOVED by Professor Crown and seconded by Mr. Vethan that the Academic Development Committee approve, and forward to the Planning & Priorities Committee, a proposal from the Advisory Committee on Women's Studies for the establishment of a Women's Research Centre jointly sponsored by the University of Alberta and Athabasca University.

The Chair informed members that, should ADC approve the Centre (the first step in the development of an independent research centre on campus) this would not mean endorsement of the budget. He said that, as a University of Alberta-approved Centre, this organization could request donations and funding.

Several members expressed concern that the proposal defined membership in terms of gender (i.e., the proposal indicated that the Centre's director would be female). The Chair said that men would not be excluded.

A member noted that the proposal (under section 5.1, Administrative and Working Organization) had indicated that the membership of the Centre would be made up of academics and community women engaged in or interested in feminist research. He said that, rather than indicating "community women," the proposal should refer to "community members". Another member disagreed and added that such a change might be destructive to links with community women and women's groups.

Members discussed whether the Centre should be called "Feminist Research Centre" rather than Women's Research Centre, although it was noted that the term "feminist" might have political connotations not intended by the proposers. It was noted that methodological approaches to be used for research on women's issues were the most important factors in the development of such a centre. A member concluded that the nature of the Centre's orientation (as "feminist" or otherwise), especially in terms of actions and lobbies, should be made explicit.

VOTE ON MOTION

The MOTION was PUT and CARRIED.