



Reply March 16 1988

to: *Dr. M. Assheton-Smith
Dept. of Ed. Fdn.
5-166 Educ. North*

from: *Florence Glanfield
VP Academic
Graduate Students' Association*

subject: *GSA Women's Studies Task Force*

date *February 22, 1988*

our file:

your file:

Attached you will find a copy of the draft questionnaire that we intend to use to survey individuals regarding the need for a graduate program in Women's Studies.

We would appreciate your feedback regarding the questionnaire, by Wednesday, March 9, if possible.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

GRADUATE WOMENS STUDIES NEED SURVEY

Introduction: This survey is sponsored by the University of Alberta Graduate Students Association and has been sent to all current graduate students at the U of A in order to identify your perception of need for a graduate level program in Womens Studies. Part A asks for demographic information, Part B solicits your opinion via a response scale and yes/no or fill in the blank responses.

The time required to complete this brief questionnaire is 3 to 5 minutes. Please assist your Graduate Students' Association in assessing the level of need for a graduate level program in Womens Studies by completing the form and returning it via the enclosed envelope. Thank you.

Part A - Demographic information - Please provide the following information about yourself.

Sex: M or F Program: M.A. M.Sc. M.Ed. Ph.D

Age: _____ Department: _____

Degree(s) held: _____

Have you taken previous undergraduate courses in Womens Studies at other universities? Yes No
If yes, please list the course titles _____

.....

Part B - Please respond to the following by indicating the appropriate response. SA=strongly agree, A=agree, U=undecided, D=disagree, SD=strongly disagree.

- 1) If a Womens Studies program were available as a degree program in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, I would have. . .
- a) taken courses in this area.....SA A U D SD
 - b) specialized in this area.....SA A U D SD
 - c) no interest in this area.....SA A U D SD

2) The role of women in contemporary society is undergoing rapid and significant change.....SA A U D SD

3) A graduate level Womens Studies program should be based on a multi-disciplinary approach.....SA A U D SD

4) Focused study on the roles of women in society is not needed.....SA A U D SD

5) The University of Alberta has a role to play in providing for focused study on. . .

a) changing family structures.....SA A U D SD

b) Women in the work force.....SA A U D SD

c) effects of sex role changes in society..SA A U D SD

d)

e)

f)

6) Are you aware of Womens Studies programs available at other universities? Yes No

7) What department(s) do you think a graduate level Womens Studies program should be housed in?

8) Do you think a graduate level Womens Studies program would be of interest to. . . (circle a or b)

a) women only

b) men and women

9) Comments: _____

_____.

Thank you for responding to this survey.

Graduate Students' Association Womens Studies Task Force



THE GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
of the University of Alberta

Room 206, North Power Plant, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E0 Tel. No. 432-2175

December 4, 1987

Dr. M. Assheton-Smith
Department of Educ. Foundations
5-166 Education North

Dear Dr. Assheton-Smith:

The Graduate Students' Association created a task force in June of this year to examine the feasibility of a graduate program in Women's Studies.

We've prepared a position paper (attached) stating the need for such a program and ask for your comments. We are very excited about the possibility of such a program and are in the process of an "Awareness Campaign" on campus.

I thank you in advance for your assistance and invite you to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Florence Glanfield
VP Academic
Graduate Students' Association

FG:mm



THE GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
of the University of Alberta

Room 206, North Power Plant, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E0 Tel. No. 432-2175

Position paper:

Task Force on Graduate Program in Women's Studies

November 18, 1987

We need ... to know more about women and to pay greater attention to what is known. As the study of women becomes 'legitimate', there will be a greater emphasis on what has been done and greater access to what is now being done."

-Marylee Stephenson, Women in Canada

Women's roles in the family, in the economy, and in academia are undergoing profound changes - changes that affect all of us. Women now outnumber men in Alberta universities; three out of four Canadian women will be financially independent at some time in their lives, and only an average of 13 out of every 100 Alberta families constitute the "traditional" family in which the male is the sole breadwinner. (Edmonton Journal, "Women in the Labor Force", Oct. 19, 1986; citation from Statistics Canada) Education has played a major role in this remarkable change; Judge Rosalie Abella, in a 1984 Royal Commission report on equality in employment, identifies education, the "myth killer and skill giver", as a crucial agent in this change process. "Dramatic changes in the school system" are required to adequately fulfill both these functions, she advises.

We propose that the University of Alberta establish a graduate program in Women's Studies for the following reasons:

Firstly, there is a great need for a program focusing on women's studies and gender-based research issues. At present, interested members of the university feminist community are circulating a petition appealing that such a program be established. We believe that a great deal of support for this program already exists: attendance at various women's studies lectures and seminars has been consistently excellent, and interest in women's studies is at a very high level. Unfortunately, the University lacks graduate credit courses in women's studies that can be taken

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We propose that this program should take an interdisciplinary approach, with a required course in theory or methodology. The strength in this approach lies in its diversity. In this framework, the nature of women's studies demands a structure that transcends departmental boundaries: women's issues and roles in history, literature, politics, sociology, business, law, medicine, theology, education, and the sciences could be successfully explored in this framework. This would allow the student to choose an emphasis which suited him/her, whether in literature, sociology, history, or the sciences, but retaining a common core of theory and methodology courses.

In other women's studies programs (for example, the undergraduate program at Simon Fraser University) professors have joint appointments with such departments as Psychology, art, History, Computer Science, and Philosophy. Existing faculty could make up the nucleus of the program; they could then be appointed to joint semester positions in women's studies. As at SFU, feminist scholars could be invited on a visiting or exchange basis to teach courses. Also, additional courses in departments outside women's studies could be considered for credit in the new program, provided those courses have a high women's studies content. There is also the possibility that those undergraduate women's studies courses scheduled to begin in 1988 could be upgraded for graduate studies. This would be a low-cost approach to the establishment of a new program - helpful in these budget-conscious times.

We feel that it is important that women's issues are researched in the depth and breadth they deserve. As an historical, political, and sociological phenomenon, contemporary changes in women's roles, and the issues arising from these changes, should be examined closely; they relate to nearly every facet of everyday life. To establish a graduate program in women's studies would signal the University's openness to innovation, but also indicate its willingness to listen to those in need of research facilities and guidance for graduate work in a topic that affects all of us.

towards a women's studies degree; it is difficult to focus on women's studies at the University because of this lack of a structured program. Those interested in women's studies must use a "hit-or-miss" system when enrolling in courses, with no guarantee that any single course will have a particular emphasis on women's issues.

Secondly, establishing a formal network of courses for potential students would formalize and speed up a very involved process. Presently, a student interested in pursuing a graduate degree in women's studies must first approach the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research for approval of his/her courses. This route is extremely circuitous; it is also, inevitably, inconsistent, as there are no formal course requirements and no one program coordinator for graduate women's studies. In practical terms, women's studies students might not have any courses in common. No theory or introductory courses in women's studies are offered at the graduate level.

Thirdly, it is not only a programmatic structure that is needed; students interested in women's studies are now "out in the cold", unable to exchange ideas, discussion, and concerns. These students lack the "critical mass" so necessary in a university community. We believe that founding a graduate program in women's studies would be a positive influence on these students: under the guidance of a department, students and faculty could freely and easily exchange ideas. It is difficult now for students (both those presently attending the University and potential students) to become acquainted with each other, to discuss their studies, to design programs, or to seek supervisory guidance.

Fourthly, a graduate program in women's studies at the University would be something of a trend-setter: only four other universities in Canada, and none on the Prairies, offer such programs. To establish a graduate program in women's studies would pull in a heterogeneous group of students, attracted by the reputation of the University of Alberta as an innovative and research-oriented institution. To now establish a women's studies graduate program makes good sense in view of the position taken in The Next Decade and Beyond, which emphasizes the importance of graduate studies at the University and recommends that FGSR enrollment be raised to 20% of all students.

1) a) Ea. student program - PhD or Master level

→ to GFC is ea program

b) ~~write~~ a dept - to get a prog

2) ~~P~~ + persuade dept to have some "rules"

c) By dept to add "Women Stud".

2) Representation.

→ ~~Agnes Feby~~ - on the committee → "exec comm"

→ dept is the chair of the comm - could use

3) Elaine Murgzi - lengthen prog - admin comm
of + this will be a work environment

4) Intramural events - 37 last year -

Humanities / Social Sciences / Sciences ... et al?

↓
rsek or Feby & st work → to come to understand
ea other

i.e. to educate ea other re our disciplines -
(understand what ea other is doing).

"mainstream" as a problem → not direct.

5) Semi for others - the community -

* Notes from Hull *

discipline
not for
Feminist
or
women



**WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSES IN SPANISH
1988/89**

Spanish 440 - Topics in Spanish Peninsular Literature
Second Term: D. Musacchio - TBA

Women portrayed by men during five centuries of Spanish literature.

Prerequisite: Spanish 315 or 320 or 350 or 355.

Spanish 699 - Conference Course - Women writers from Spanish America
Second Term: C. Potvin - TBA

A study of feminine discourse in Spanish American literature from colonial times to present. A selected corpus of representative works of the main genres (narrative, lyric, dramatic) will be examined from a feminist point of view, in order to establish and discuss the modes of production and reception of the feminine text, its relation to the literary institution, its significance, its specificity.



to: Ms. Florence Glanfield
President
Graduate Students' Association

date: 13 May, 1988

our file:

from: Vice-President (Academic)

your file:

subject: Vice-President (Academic)'s Advisory Committee, Women's Studies

Further to our earlier conversations, I am pleased to invite you, in your capacity as representative of the Graduate Students' Association, to join the Advisory Committee on Women's Studies.

I am delighted to know that the Graduate Students' Association is interested in participating in the work of the Committee through membership, and I hope that you will find it to be an interesting and challenging assignment.

A copy of the terms of reference for the Committee is attached for your information. By copy of this letter to the co-chairs of the Committee I am asking that they ensure that you are made aware of the future timetable and activities of the Committee.

Again, many thanks for your interest.

J. Peter Meekison
Vice-President (Academic)

AEZ:dc
Encl.

c.c.: Dr. M. Assheton-Smith
Dr. R. Liburd



to: ✓ Dr. Marilyn Assheton-Smith, and
Dr. Rosemary Liburd
Co-chairs, Coordinating Committee on
Women's Studies

date: June 15, 1988

our file:

from: Mrs. Twyla E. Gibson, Executive Secretary
Associate Vice-President
(Information Systems)

your file:


subject: **Coordinating Committee on Women's Studies
Standing Committee of the Vice-President (Academic)**

Attached is a copy of a letter from Ms. Lisa Strang, Vice-President (Academic) of the Graduate Students' Association regarding Sharon Franz-Lutzer's membership on the Coordinating Committee on Women's Studies.

Further, it is nearing the end of the 1987/88 academic year and memberships, etc. are changing for all standing committees. Will you please advise the Office of the Vice-President (Academic) if there are changes to the following (for above committee).

- a) Terms of reference
- b) Change of chair(s)
- c) Change in membership

Thank you. Your cooperation is appreciated.


Twyla E. Gibson

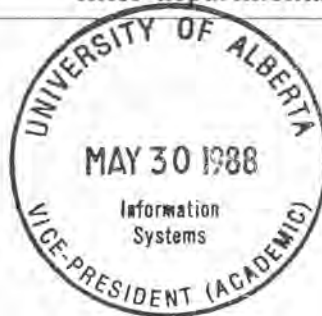
Attachment



to: J Peter Meekison
Vice-President (Academic)

from Lisa Strang
Vice-President (Academic)
Graduate Students' Association

subject: Vice-President (Academic)'s Advisory Committee, Women's Studies



date: May 27, 1988

our file:

your file:

Thank you for your invitation to join the Advisory Committee on Women's Studies. As the Graduate Students' Association currently has a task force to study the issue of a graduate program in Women's Studies, we are most interested in the work the Advisory Committee is currently engaged, and we are pleased to have the opportunity to represent graduate students' on it.

Further, I would like to ask that Sharon Franz-Lutzer, a graduate student in Secondary Education, be the official GSA representative on the Advisory Committee on Women's Studies for the 1988 - 1989 term. I would appreciate it if you could notify the co-chairs of this Committee so she may receive notification of meeting times and Agenda items. I will pass on a copy of the terms of reference for the Committee to Sharon.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lisa Strang.

Lisa Strang
Vice-President (Academic)
Graduate Students' Association