

Department of Educational Foundations,
Faculty of Education, University of Alberta,
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G5
December 14, 1987.

To: Dr. Peter Meekison,
Vice-President Academic

From: Marilyn Assheton-Smith
Co-Chair, Coordinating Committee on Women's Studies

Re: Funds for 1988/89 academic year.

Thank you for meeting with us last Wednesday. We found the discussion helpful in relation to the committee's work. As we discussed at that time, we would like to follow-up with a request for financial support for the committee for the upcoming academic year.

The major work of the committee continues to focus around the Women's Research Centre. For that work and other committee work we employ an assistant for about 10 hours a week, at a cost of approximately \$5400 per year. Other office costs are under \$100 per month, and we think it is essential to have funds to bring in visiting speakers in relation to research, or to collaborate with other women's groups on campus to support such researchers. A total of about \$10,000.00 would then enable us to continue working at our present level.

We look forward to hearing favourably from you in relation to these funds. We will, in any case, make contact with Dr. James about the research institute and call you early in February to arrange a date for you to peruse a revised copy of the proposal so that you can consider taking it to the academic planning committee.

Marilyn Assheton-Smith
Rosemary Liburd.

Vice-President's Coordinating Committee
on Women's Studies
c/o Marilyn Assheton-Smith
Department of Educational Foundations
5th Floor Education North
University of Alberta
March 14, 1988.

Dr. Peter Meekison,
Vice-President Academic
3-4 University Hall
University of Alberta.

Re: Women's Research Centre Proposal

Finally we have a draft of this for you which we would consider ready to proceed to committee. We realize, of course, that you may wish some changes or that you may make some specific recommendations with regards to it before it proceeds.

We have decided to write in a clear recommendation that the centre be a collaborative venture with the University of Alberta and Athabasca University. That idea was implicit in previous documents you have seen, but not spelled out. It is now clear that academic staff at Athabasca would prefer that arrangement and preliminary informal approaches have been made to Athabasca's vice-president so that he realizes we are making this proposal: there have been no formal discussions with him of course, as we assumed that would follow either approval in principle within the University of Alberta or at least some consideration of the issue by yourself.

We have also written in a more realistic budget, in terms of real costs, than we had previously suggested. Nevertheless, we are aware that it will take considerable work to build a budget such as this, and that some of the costs may well be reduced by accessing furniture pools of each university, or identifying areas where each university can most easily contribute without feeling that the costs are direct (for example, perhaps space from the U of A, and some provision of computers from Athabasca as part of their large-scale computer project... that has not been discussed with them, but we could see something like that as a possibility). That also, of course, indicates a fairly large contribution has already been made by the universities when we turn to fund raising.

There is one piece of work which has not been done, and that is fitting the budget into the Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet template currently being used in the comptroller's office. That would not be too difficult to do if it seemed adviseable, although we might use an Excel spreadsheet rather than Lotus. The formulas should not be difficult to transfer.

We look forward to hearing from you shortly in regards to the next steps for this proposal. As you likely know we are using space provided to us, a house on 90th Ave, and finding it quite satisfactory for a start. We have today asked Wayne Hansen if he could assure us of that space for a somewhat longer period of time, so we can proceed to arrange furniture and generally set it up in a way which would be more appropriate for our use. Our thanks for your support and assistance to date.

Marilyn Assheton-Smith
Rosemary Liburd
Co-chairs.

run *textform sconds = new prog sprinth = Final prop
sprinth = -b phr = no privilege

control * print * return = error priv = low package = low

copy print = one copy = 2
final prop to * print *
rel * print *

~~885755~~
886093 -
886092

Work
→ a meeting with
who will do work

June 15 10:11
@ night

Budget 1988/89.

Learning Party

The Person's Cases

Oct 21
Oct 22

p. 8

* Visiting public Visitors (eg. Phil group)

includes

letter to friends of the center
- request for other pledges -
- request for membership.
(list) - - - not in the sum

hire - cost
Amy Zuban
* Membership *

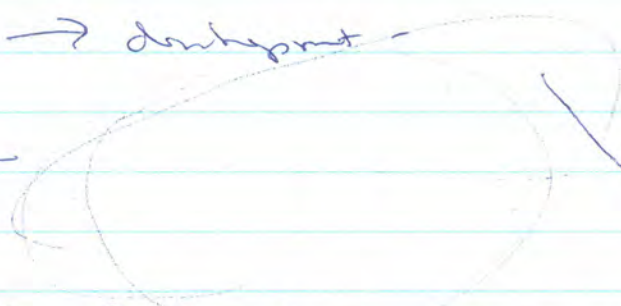
attention

* on the journey - * Rubygn - good student

Callings together
in our
down
collect

Fricion of our Research Center -
This contradicts our own work.

* Spew → development -
Fading
Strategic
Task



Women's Research Center Collect.

Accessible + Rigorous

Popular Feminist
Public Presentations

* Was Review to Potentially Fricion of our Center
for June meeting *

Presented by
also
way

Fri + Sat

October
day

Minisymposium

Learning Party

- a whole day

1) Call Release (↔)
2)

May 21 @ 10^{hr}

Announce Univ

Bobby Kerri

Thank you

testie ← letter

Engaged pen & symbol → gold pen

4965

Mary Delane

mount CV

433-2632

Copies of proposal out



to: Dr. Marilyn Assheton-Smith
co-chair Vice-President's Coordinating Committee
on Women's Studies
c/o Dept. of Educational Foundations

date: 20 April, 1988

our file:

from: Dr. Amy E. Zelmer
Associate Vice President (Academic)

your file:

subject: Women's Research Centre Proposal:

I've just been looking over the proposal and wanted to tell you on a personal basis how great I think it is.

Will you be making a provision for "corresponding associates" or some such? I've a very selfish reason for asking but think that you might well consider spreading the net to reach some of us who will be physically not able to drop in. Now that I've figured out how to send messages through both MTS and BitNet to Australia I am more than ever convinced that electronic connections could really work to the advantage of women who are often among the more isolated in society.

Best of luck.

Amy E. Zelmer

AEZ:dc

Vice-President's Coordinating Committee
on Women's Studies
c/o Marilyn Assheton-Smith
Department of Educational Foundations
5th Floor Education North
University of Alberta
March 14, 1988

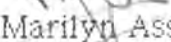
Mr. Wayne Hansen,
Space Planning Officer,
Planning and Space Management,
480 General Services Building.

Re: Women's Research Centre Space

Wayne, as you know we have been using the house at 11043-90 Ave., and have very much appreciated having access to it. We are forwarding this week the final proposal to Dr. Meekison; we have written in real costs of such a centre if it were fully funded, but we are anticipating some funding and some scrounging around. I am enclosing a copy of that proposal for you (although there are a few modifications which will be made before the final draft goes to Dr. Meekison), to give you some picture of the work of the centre.

What I would like from you, if possible, is some assurance that we will have access to that space for an extended period of time. We need to rearrange furniture, move some furniture out, get phone lines in, attach a telephone answering device and so on. However, we would not like to do that and then find we are required to move soon after ... Can you give me assurance that we have the space, even for a year? (If you can promise longer we would be delighted, but even a year makes it possible for us to plan).

Thanks for your assistance to date Wayne. It really has been very helpful to have a location where we can call our meetings and begin to plan our work.


Marilyn Assheton-Smith
Rosemary Liburd

Rationale

1. Introduction 1

2. Rationale for a Feminist Research Institute 2

3. Research Objectives of the Institute 4

4. Research Agenda 4

5. Structure of the Institute 7

 5.1 Administrative and Working Organization 7

 5.2 Space and facilities 9

6. Finance 1

7. Concluding Comments 1

→ protect fund money expenses

→ Ordering of items

1) Objectives list - one story

2) Justifying of these

Objective to get the link structure

Why it will benefit

a) h + A + B + C + D + E

b) Govt

c) community

d) society

e) women's studies

Catching - not clear

a) Def of research work

b) activities of research

c) ecology of relations

e) Priority of work

→ poster publications + others (exhibitions)

f) to go to university quality

the context

structural structure

Political
only interests
design - + content
concept - + form is present
How goes in the account
Part Eicher only

1. Introduction

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 imply only applied research. Much of feminist research which challenges existing models of knowledge in the university and proposes alternatives to those models is clearly research "for women" even though it occurs in philosophy or literature or theology or other fields of primary knowledge.

Further, in that it is research "for" women rather than "on" women, feminist research 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?

One other assumption underlies feminist research and that is that such research will eventually benefit women, men, and children, not "just" women. Thus, the current focus on the experience of women which underlies feminist research assumes an existing male-bias in knowledge systems which will eventually be transformed. That male-bias cannot be transformed by pretending it does not exist, but only by the long-term development of female-centered knowledge systems.

Margarit Eichler's description of feminist approaches could provide a more detailed definition of feminist research:

(2) Needs over content, format
(3) P.M.S. discipline
(4) Content proposal
(5) Review of support
(6) Publish
... say
... say
Other methods
↓ New heights
→ GRIEMF
→ Robin Fox
→ Vancouver
♀
→ Montreal
University
what were done already
to define
from research
interdisciplinary
response
design
1) What we have done so far
2) One with it

Summary - not parallel to the document
Problem - in 3/4 is already
generally
sup #1 & 2

Targeted support
Potential for outside sources
ext - int support
Minors → re: committee

The Heart of Support

"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).

That is,
Eichler here refers primarily to her own discipline in this description but feminist research and analysis not only critiques knowledge within disciplines but transcends the boundaries of disciplines. Eichler argues that this is so because feminist research by necessity blurs disciplinary and sub-disciplinary boundaries. This happens because such research is typically issue-oriented, its problems derive from the experiences of women rather than from the problematics of the disciplines. Eventually discussion around several critical issues influences various disciplines, even though the impetus for the intellectual work does not originate within them. We consider this notion also, the notion of interdisciplinary research grounded in women's issues and experiences, to be an essential aspect of feminist research.

Given this understanding of feminist research, there are no discipline boundaries to the work nor limitations to doing collaborative research with feminist oriented women's groups in the community or with other universities. The limitations relate to the overall orientation defined above, a methodological stance which is appropriate to that orientation, and a genuine research problem. A genuine research problem is defined as a problem which can be addressed by the development or clarification of knowledge.

2. Rational for a Feminist Research Institute

Feminist research and research in the general area of women's studies has developed rapidly in the last fifteen years, but academics at these two Alberta universities have not yet made the contribution of which they are capable. There are a number of scholars here with an interest in the area of study, indicated by their willingness to teach graduate and undergraduate

*Two more
to be added*



courses even when such courses constitute extra loads, by supervision of graduate theses in which the work is primarily feminist, and by a few publications, but on the whole our contribution to the literature is not significant.

In this same time period, feminist research and knowledge has expanded at an exponential rate. Margrit Eichler's (1985) analysis of feminism and sociology points to an impact of feminist researchers on the analysis of housework, the analysis of paid and unpaid labour, and on the analysis of the labour market itself. She also notes a reconceptualization of the phenomenon of rape, a reorientation in our understanding of incest and wife battering, a shifting in our understanding of the variables of sex and gender and an associated reconceptualization of the reproductive functions of men and women. From this beginning she proceeds to list a number of other areas of sociological knowledge which have been influenced by feminist research.

Eichler's analysis is particularly interesting, because she herself has made a major contribution to these changes in sociology (along with Dorothy Smith and Mary O'Brien). We would argue that one reason this has been possible is that these three scholars work out of the same institutional structure (the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education), that this institution which provides only graduate education is in fact a major centre for research, and that the divergent methodologies and theoretical orientations of these three scholars is brought together in a way which greatly enriches the contribution of each of them because of a specific institutional structure and a shared commitment to feminist research. We believe that a research institute at these two universities could similarly motivate and support ground-breaking research in women's studies, but could go beyond the model of OISE by drawing on a much wider potential for interdisciplinary work available here.

Because of the need to develop interdisciplinary women's research, such an institute would be based on ecological relations somewhat different from most research/collegial social relationships. That is, in traditional discipline and problem-oriented research, a scholar selects a very small area of study and is likely to be the only scholar within her university doing that work. Consequently she builds relationships nationally and internationally with those few women and men who are doing work related to her own, and she has few academic or intellectual relationships with others in her university.

The ecology of an interdisciplinary women's research institute should reverse that pattern. The diversity would be based not on geography but on topic, and the unifying factors would be spatial proximity and an overall shared orientation to research which will be done on behalf of women. It is believed that a well-planned institute could create the same atmosphere for intellectual support in interdisciplinary work that the traditional pattern creates within narrowly defined intradisciplinary work.

3. Research Objectives of the Institute

We propose then that the two Universities establish a Feminist Research Institute 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. The institute would have the following detailed objectives:

- a) To provide a base for interdisciplinary feminist research.
- b) To contribute to the building of an interdisciplinary knowledge base in women's studies, especially on topics particularly pertinent to women of Alberta or Western Canada.
- b) To 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)
- c) To provide a locale for academics and women's groups in the community to be mutually supportive in relation to women's research.
- d) To make available research results, especially to those involved in university teaching and to community women's groups.
- e) To provide a structure for receiving funds for women's research.

4 Research Agenda

President
Vice President
Assoc Prof
Assoc Prof
Assoc Prof
Assoc Prof

Although the exact program by which these 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 initial 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 a formal process which encouraged other researchers to become engaged in the topic would be institutionalized. What are examples of the kinds of research members of the centre might engage in?

3

Alford

1. 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.

Drine

Robin
Peter
Rita
SSRHE
Wendy
Margaret
Winnona

2. 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 could enable the

Who is on
& why
from

Can
Change

(a) Who can help
(b) What is possible

Leanna

various researchers working in all of these areas to discuss their work with each other.

3. 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 section 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.

4. 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.

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 group. 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 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 Jaegar and Sandra Harding.

Other approaches which are deemed important in feminist research include action-research and collaborative research. Each of these imply specific types of relations between the researcher and the research subject, and research goals which go beyond the accumulation of knowledge for its own sake. It would be important that the institute also see these approaches as topics for research and analysis, as their implications would be spelled out through the years of work.

5. Structure of the ^{Centre} Institute

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 ~~development~~ administration of the centre. Its terms of reference would include the ~~development~~ ^{acceptance} of applications for membership in the institute and the ~~development~~ ^{acceptance} 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.

In addition to the centre members who would be researchers or women interested in research results, honorary membership could recognize women like Doris Anderson (an alumni), Helen Hunley, Mary LeMessier, Betty Hewes, Jan Reimer, Jeanne Sauve, Jenny Margetts and so on. In time, other categories of membership may be developed by the Research Centre.

~~The name of work unit in which membership making of it but 2 employees~~
The centre would have two employees, a director and a clerk/steno. The first, under the direction of the Research Coordinating Committee, would 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. The second would ensure that necessary accounting, paper work, and filing was done. Other employees would be added as researchers and research assistants when funds were available, either through contracts, endowment funds, or university base budgetting.

Academic positions
 Desks
 desks
 job desk
 → job desk
 → marketing
 → setting a
 for center
 of high profile
 country #
 e.g.
 → in computer
 2 in person
 9 in person
 2 in person
 → day & in
 open for
 → bus
 → to
 desk
 → to
 → to

5.2. Space and facilities

The space needs for the centre would be office space for some researchers, and office space for the director and clerk/steno. 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). At present, a medium sized office could be shared by the director and clerk/steno, and three to five research offices would be sufficient to get the centre started. We should 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 ecology, a centre in which internal communication is enhanced, one of the campus houses would be the preferred location.

initially
 office
 furniture

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 clerk/steno 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 clerk/steno 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). (*Bridgette... "image" machines? e.g. film or slide projectors, or videodisks or VCR's? I am assuming we would draw most such equipment from the university pool, but would a researcher doing the work you do need something specific to do her work which might be like "typing" for textual work?).

think
 about
 it

Shirley
 Magister T.V.
 classes
 camera
 Siemens

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 University library systems 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 document will be purchased for the library systems or the resource room, or turned over to them after research is completed.

Support library
- 1981
→ University

6. Finances

By you for
high school
4 desks allowed.

Financial arrangements for the centre will include initial start-up costs and annual operating costs. The start-up costs will involve largely purchase of capital equipment, and these costs will not continue after the first year. Operating costs will be small initially, but will increase as the research centre becomes more active. A five year budget is presented here to incorporate these changing costs.

Always budget
We anticipate
that our
needs are
to not be
left for
last
with
parts

Year one.

Capital equipment

five desks, filing cabinets, and bookcases@1200	\$ 6000.00
seminar table@1500	\$ 1500.00
chairs, 30@\$150	\$ 4500.00
copying machine@\$5000	\$ 5000.00
telephones in each office@\$100 ea	\$ 500.00
computers, 4@4000	\$16,000.00
Laser printer	4,000.00
	<u>Subtotal=\$37,500.00</u>

Real need
for
support
&
growth
costs

With 3 yrs
we expect
for
need for

or
enhanced
fulfill
need
about a
needs
in terms of
the budget

Operating Costs

Director 1/2 time (incl benefits)	\$20,000.00
Clerk/typist 1/2 time (incl benefits)	\$16,000.00
Mainframe Computer and telecommunications costs	\$1,200.00
Materials (paper etc)	\$2,400.00
Heat and lighting + maintenance	
	<u>Subtotal=\$33,600.00</u>

Full time

45,000

49,000

Call
Burd for
Terms

Not on WVA
(part of total
budget for research
not yet estimated)

unbudgeted

With
Self support
on his
own

Year Two

Capital Costs

Computers, 2@4000 \$8,000.00
Networking costs(internal) \$2,000.00

Subtotal=\$10,000.00

Operating Costs

Director, full time (incl benefits) ^{using not} \$42,000.00
Clerk/typist full time (incl benefits) \$22,000.00
~~Research assistant 1@30,000 \$30,000.00~~
Research assistants (grad students) 3@10,000 \$30,000.00
Mainframe Computer and telecommunications 3,000.00
Materials 6,000.00

Subtotal=\$133,000.00

Grad
studies
Amuse

→ need some
money

Year Three

Capital Costs

Computers, 2@4000 \$8,000.00

Operating Costs

Director, full time (incl benefits) \$44,000.00
Clerk/typist full time (incl benefits) \$24,000.00
Research assistant 2@30,000 \$60,000.00
Research assistants (grad students) 6@10,000 \$60,000.00
Mainframe Computer and telecommunications 4,800.00
Materials \$8,000.00

subtotal=\$208,800.00

JBR

Year Four

Operating Costs

Director, full time (incl benefits) \$46,000.00
Clerk/typist full time (incl benefits) \$26,000.00
Research assistant 2@30,000 \$60,000.00
Research assistants (grad students) 10@10,000 \$100,000.00
Mainframe Computer and telecommunications 6,000.00
Materials \$9,000.00

JBR

← Phew
- the int

subtotal=\$247,000.00

Year Five

Operating Costs

Director, full time (incl benefits)	\$48,000.00
Clerk/typist full time (incl benefits)	\$28,000.00
Research assistant 2@30,000	\$60,000.00
Research assistants (grad students) 10@10,000	\$100,000.00
Mainframe Computer and telecommunications	7,000.00
Materials	<u>\$10,000.00</u>

subtotal=\$253,000.00

7. Concluding Comments.

(This needs to be developed; essentially simply makes the argument again I think).

Be very...
 Mash...
 look at...
 Clay...
 good...
 I...
 to get started...
 World...
 based...
 ...

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	5
5. Structure of the Centre	8
5.1. Administrative and Working Organization	8
5.2. Space and facilities	9
6. Finances	10
7. Concluding Comments	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" even though it occurs in 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?

Margarit Eichler's 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 GROPE 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, 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 pertinent to women of Alberta, Western Canada and the North.
- c) to continually develop and reassess feminist research methodologies, particularly 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. OISE scholars currently hold well over one million dollars in SSHRC research grants for feminist research. We believe that a research centre at the 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, Université Laval has formed the GREMF (Groupe de recherche multidisciplinaire féministe) and L'Université du Québec à Montréal has created GIERF (Groupe interdisciplinaire pour l'enseignement et la recherche féministes) 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 about beginnings of other centres, but these two Universities could 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 a distance education institution, with particular expertise in delivery of education through distance modes, and with a small group of academic researchers who address women's topics. It also has academic relations with the whole Alberta community as a result of its mandate, and a strong commitment to northern communities.

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 within the embryonic centre have included such diverse topics as women's depression, becoming a mother, research which is preparation for 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 and understanding 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 if it occurred in an environment in which theoretical issues were 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 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 group. 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 it is 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 Jaegar 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, students 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 research centre which would be inviting to international scholars, and be an information resource to 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 second 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 space for the director and clerk/steno. 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 an office for the director and one for the clerk/steno, and 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 campus houses 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 clerk/steno 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 clerk/steno 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 document 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. The start-up costs will involve largely purchase of capital equipment; these costs will not continue after the first year. We are writing these capital costs into this budget, but we anticipate that in fact many of the needs can be met from existing university furniture pools. Operating costs will be small initially, but will increase as the research centre becomes more active. We anticipate that funds would be needed for hiring research assistants by year two, and that summer employment projects

would be sought to fund graduate student research assistants. Within three years we anticipate that endowment or other external funds would reduce the need for university base budget to the centre. A five year budget is presented here to incorporate these changing costs. Of course, both universities would contribute to these costs, but the proportion from each has not yet been determined.

Year one.

Capital equipment

five desks, filing cabinets, and bookcases@1200	\$ 6000.00
seminar table@1500	\$ 1500.00
chairs, 30@\$150	\$ 4500.00
copying machine@\$5000	\$ 5000.00
telephones in each office@\$100 ea	\$ 500.00
computers, 4@4000	\$16,000.00
Laser printer	<u>4,000.00</u>
	Subtotal=\$37,500.00

Operating Costs

Director full time (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
Heat and Lighting, Maintenance (not costed)	
	<u>Subtotal=\$73,800.00</u>

Year Two

Capital Costs

Computers, 2@4000	\$8,000.00
Networking costs(phonenet or equivalent)	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
	Subtotal=\$10,000.00

Operating Costs

Director, full time (incl benefits)	\$47,000.00
Executive/Secretary full time (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	<u>4,000.00</u>
	Subtotal=\$144,500.00

Year Three

Capital Costs

Computers, 2@4000 \$8,000.00

Operating Costs

Director, full time (incl benefits) \$49,000.00

Executive/Secretary full time (incl benefits) \$28,000.00

Research assistant 2@30,000 \$60,000.00

Research assistants (grad students) 6@10,000 \$60,000.00

Mainframe Computer and telecommunications 4,800.00

Telephone and Mailing 2,000.00

Materials \$8,000.00

subtotal=\$211,800.00

Year Four

Operating Costs

Director, full time (incl benefits) \$51,000.00

Executive/Secretary full time (incl benefits) \$30,000.00

Research assistant 2@30,000 \$60,000.00

Research assistants (grad students) 10@10,000 100,000.00

Mainframe Computer and telecommunications \$6,000.00

Telephone and Mailing \$2,500.00

Materials \$9,000.00

subtotal=\$256,500.00

Year Five

Operating Costs

Director, full time (incl benefits) \$53,000.00

Executive/Secretary full time (incl benefits) \$32,000.00

Research assistant 2@30,000 \$60,000.00

Research assistants (grad students) 10@10,000 \$100,000.00

Mainframe Computer and telecommunications 7,000.00

Telephone and Mailing \$3,500.00

Materials \$10,000.00

subtotal=\$265,500.00

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 major research projects, and the needs of community groups for issue-focused and 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).

Bray, Cathy. (University of Alberta) Feminist Approaches to Learning the Physical.

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, Bridgette. (University of Alberta) Womens Imagery in Art; Father/Daughter and Mother/Daughter Imagery in Art.

Manneschmidt, Sybil. (Graduate Student) Menstrual Experience and Social Status of Women.

Mott, Robyn. (Graduate Student) Premenstrual Changes as Experienced by Women

Spronk, Barbara. (Athabasca University) Native Women and Education.

Williamson, Jan. (Anything you want here Jan?)

Penrod, Lynn. (Anything you want here Lynn?)

Liburd, Rosemary (Anything you want here Rosemary?)

Vander Post Janina (Anything you want here Janina?)

Walters, Lisa (Anything you want here Lisa?)

Lambert, Anne. (Anything you want here Anne?)

.....

Summary

In this document we are proposing that the University of Alberta and Athabasca University agree to the establishment of a jointly sponsored research institute called simply The Women's Research Centre. The purpose of the institute will be to contribute to the enhancement of feminist knowledge, defined as knowledge which is based on the experience of women and which is developed primarily to improve the status of women in our society.

We have identified three foci for this institute. Because it will be a feminist research institute one of its primary foci will be the development of knowledge and methodologies which are appropriate for interdisciplinary and applied research. Because it will be a structure partially operating within departmentalized universities, a secondary focus will be the development of research models which make it possible for academics well trained within the many disciplines of the academy, from science through arts to the professions, to communicate with each other and to identify ways in which their research can become complementary and interdisciplinary. Finally, as a structure which intentionally crosses university/community boundaries its third focus will be on research models which can bring together theoretical and applied knowledge, knowledge which makes it possible for women working within and outside the university to communicate with each other as they address related issues and problems.

Structurally, we are recommending a co-ordinating body for the institute which will report annually to the appropriate vice-presidents of each university. This coordinating body will consist of seven researchers who are active in the institute, with each vice-president designating two members and the researchers themselves selecting the other three. It will be their task, in consultation with the researchers and others as appropriate, to set the policies of the institute. Day to day administration of the centre will be the responsibility of employed staff.

The institute will operate out of space on the University of Alberta campus, and will develop the necessary computer, communications, and other office support systems for researchers. It will not develop its own library or resource system, but will contribute to and utilize the Women's Resource Centre in the Faculty of Extension Women's Programme and the general library resources of the University of Alberta. It will initially be staffed by a co-ordinator and secretarial/clerical assistance, but as contract and other research monies are identified research assistants and associates will be hired by the institute. The main "staff" within the institute will, of course, be

the researchers themselves drawn both from the university communities and the wider women's community in Edmonton and Northern Alberta.

We are recommending that core funding for the research centre come from the universities. That is, there should be sufficient funds to establish the institute and provide for initial staffing, with a commitment to increased funding as financial circumstances make that possible. Endowment funds will then be raised for further development of the research programme.

If the University of Alberta is indeed to be a centre of excellence and a major player in the world of universities, it must participate actively in the developments of knowledge which are now occurring in women's studies. At the same time, it can maintain its roots in Alberta and continue to serve its provincial community by joining hands with Athabasca University in a venture such as this. Both universities will benefit by the establishment of a research centre such as the one proposed. (Rewrite this paragraph)*

Tuesday afternoon

Enclosed is the final copy of the proposal. I would appreciate it if you would skim it and be sure it fairly represents our position. Also if anyone would like to go over it for editing that would be very helpful, as I did get somewhat tired and the writing could flow somewhat better I think. However, I believe I have been more direct and avoided references which may be taken to be self-effacing.

Please peruse the appendix of research topics. In some cases where I have known your research I have put in something; you may like it changed or you may not want that topic in at all. In other cases where I have not known your research I have asked if you have something you would like added there. I will call you tomorrow about this page, because there is a question as to whether we should include only this list (which is the committee, some women who have presented at the research meetings, and an extra graduate student; the attempt is to indicate academic, student, and community research as well as something of action research), or we should extend it. In particular, I would not want anyone to feel that we had "excluded" them from the list, and I would not object at all to making some calls if you think it advisable.

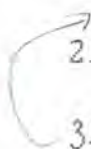
Also, the summary will be much like the previous one except I will ensure that it follow more closely this document, and there will be a facing page as there has been in the past. It will be dated this week, probably Feb 26 after I have talked to most of you I hope. The text is now being up-loaded to MTS and Leslie will incorporate the necessary formatting commands so we can get it off the printer in a much higher quality print. Changes to the text and to the appendix will be made in that MTS file.

That is all that I can think of; Rebecca and I spent a Saturday morning on this ten days ago and then it took quite a bit of rewriting to incorporate the points that were discussed at our meeting. But I think it is now a reasonable document to go forward.

Marilyn Assheton-Smith.

1. Introduction	1
2. Rational for a Feminist Research Institute	2
3. Research Objectives of the Institute	4
4. Research Agenda	4
5. Structure of the Institute	7
5.1 Administrative and Working Organization	7
5.2 Space and facilities	9
6. Finance	1
7. Concluding Comments	1

ok



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 imply only applied research. Much of feminist research which challenges existing models of knowledge in the university and proposes alternatives to those models is clearly research "for women" even though it occurs in philosophy or literature or theology or other fields of primary knowledge.

Further, in that it is research "for" women rather than "on" women, feminist research 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?

Margarit Eichler's provides a succinct ^{summary} of ^{some} feminist 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).

That is, feminist research and analysis not only critiques knowledge within disciplines but transcends the boundaries of disciplines.

Feminist scholarship is well represented at the two universities, through the teaching, publishing and research of individual academics in various departments and Faculties. Nonetheless there is an expressed 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. For example, throughout the 1987-88 academic year potential funding sources have been explored and a number of seminars have been sponsored by the vice-president's coordinating committee on women's studies. In these 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

a) Research and Research goal
 b) We have two participants
 entered mass

- first round for school who
 were left from school
 before = give it high
 visibility in a room & control
- + when to work
- OISE example (not one
 projects)

Selling
 research

→ that is visit - (100) get

→ chosen → primary @ school

→ Rules: Focus -

(→ ~~Value~~ ~~idea~~ ~~cost~~) ~~bring~~ ~~not~~

good student

The OISE
 focus is what
 come to the
 school who has
 followed the ~~school~~

(to the ~~school~~)
 about school staff
 → by a "middle class"

highly just
 → doing ~~work~~
 → history of the school
 → different ~~groups~~ ~~strength~~

what is the
 focus of the
 research

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, bring together researchers and potential research funds, 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

Feminist research and research in the general area of women's studies has developed rapidly in the last fifteen years, but academics at these two Alberta universities have not yet made the contribution of which they are capable. There are a number of scholars here with an interest in the area of study, indicated by their willingness to teach graduate and undergraduate courses even when such courses constitute extra loads, by supervision of graduate theses in which the work is primarily feminist, and by a few publications, but on the whole our contribution to the literature is not significant.

In this same time period, feminist research and knowledge has expanded at an exponential rate. Margrit Eichler's (1985) analysis of feminism and sociology points to an impact of feminist researchers on the analysis of housework, the analysis of paid and unpaid labour, and on the analysis of the labour market itself. She also notes a reconceptualization of the phenomenon of rape, a reorientation in our understanding of incest and wife battering, a shifting in our understanding of the variables of sex and gender and an associated reconceptualization of the reproductive functions of men

and women. From this beginning she proceeds to list a number of other areas of sociological knowledge which have been influenced by feminist research.

Eichler's analysis is particularly interesting, because she herself has made a major contribution to these changes in sociology (along with Dorothy Smith and Mary O'Brien). We would argue that one reason this has been possible is that these three scholars work out of the same institutional structure (the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education), that this institution which provides only graduate education is in fact a major centre for research, and that the divergent methodologies and theoretical orientations of these three scholars is brought together in a way which greatly enriches the contribution of each of them because of a specific institutional structure and a shared commitment to feminist research. We believe that a research institute at these two universities could similarly motivate and support ground-breaking research in women's studies, but could go beyond the model of OISE by drawing on a much wider potential for interdisciplinary work available here.

Because of the need to develop interdisciplinary women's research, such an institute would be based on ecological relations somewhat different from most research/collegial social relationships. That is, in traditional discipline and problem-oriented research, a scholar selects a very small area of study and is likely to be the only scholar within her university doing that work. Consequently she builds relationships nationally and internationally with those few women and men who are doing work related to her own, and she has few academic or intellectual relationships with others in her university.

The ecology of an interdisciplinary women's research institute should reverse that pattern. The diversity would be based not on geography but on topic, and the unifying factors would be spatial proximity and an overall shared orientation to research which will be done on behalf of women. It is believed that a well-planned institute could create the same atmosphere for intellectual support in interdisciplinary work that the traditional pattern creates within narrowly defined intradisciplinary work.

4. Research Agenda

Although the exact program by which these 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 initial 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 a formal process which encouraged other researchers to become engaged in the topic would be institutionalized. What are examples of the kinds of research members of the centre might engage in?

4) 1. 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) 2. 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 could enable the various researchers working in all of these areas to discuss their work with each other.

6) ✓ 3. 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 section 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) 4. 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.

5) 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) 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 group. 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 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 Jaegar and Sandra Harding.

Other approaches which are deemed important in feminist research include action-research and collaborative research. Each of these imply specific types of relations between the researcher and the research subject, and research goals which go beyond the accumulation of knowledge for its own sake. It would be important that the institute also see these approaches as topics for research and analysis, as their implications would be spelled out through the years of work.

5. Structure of the ^{Centre} Institute

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 acceptance 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.

In addition to the centre members who would be researchers or women interested in research results, honorary membership could recognize women like Doris Anderson (an alumni), Helen Hunley, Mary LeMessier, Betty Hewes, Jan Reimer, Jeanne Sauve, Jenny Margetts and so on. In time, other categories of membership may be developed by the Research Centre.

The centre would have two employees, a director and a clerk/steno. The first, under the direction of the Research Coordinating Committee, would 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. The second would ensure that necessary accounting, paper work, and filing was done. Other employees would be added as researchers and research assistants when funds were available, either through contracts, endowment funds, or university base budgetting.

See
the
app

5.2. Space and facilities

The space needs for the centre would be office space for some researchers, and office space for the director and clerk/steno. 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). At present, a medium sized office could be shared by the director and clerk/steno, and three to five research offices would be sufficient to get the centre started. We should 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 ecology, a centre in which internal communication is enhanced, one of the campus houses would be the preferred location.

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 clerk/steno 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 clerk/steno 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). (*Bridgette... "image" machines? e.g. film or slide projectors, or videodisks or VCR's? I am assuming we would draw most such equipment from the university pool, but would a researcher doing the work you do need something specific to do her work which might be like "typing" for textual work?).

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 University library systems 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 document 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. The start-up costs will involve largely purchase of capital equipment, and these costs will not continue after the first year. Operating costs will be small initially, but will increase as the research centre becomes more active. A five year budget is presented here to incorporate these changing costs.

Year one.

Capital equipment

five desks, filing cabinets, and bookcases@1200	\$ 6000.00
seminar table@1500	\$ 1500.00
chairs, 30@\$150	\$ 4500.00
copying machine@\$5000	\$ 5000.00
telephones in each office@\$100 ea	\$ 500.00
computers, 4@4000	\$16,000.00
Laser printer	<u>4,000.00</u>
	Subtotal=\$37,500.00

Operating Costs

Director 1/2 time (incl benefits)	\$20,000.00
Clerk/typist 1/2 time(incl benefits)	\$10,000.00
Mainframe Computer and telecommunications costs	\$1,200.00
Materials (paper etc)	<u>\$2,400.00</u>
	Subtotal=\$33,600.00

Year Two

Capital Costs

Computers, 2@4000	\$8,000.00
Networking costs(internal)	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
	Subtotal=\$10,000.00

Operating Costs

Director, full time (incl benefits)	\$42,000.00
Clerk/typist full time (incl benefits)	\$22,000.00
Research assistant 1@30,000	\$30,000.00
Research assistants (grad students) 3@10,000	\$30,000.00
Mainframe Computer and telecommunications	3,000.00
Materials	<u>6,000.00</u>

Subtotal=\$133,000.00

Year Three

Capital Costs

Computers, 2@4000	\$8,000.00
-------------------	------------

Operating Costs

Director, full time (incl benefits)	\$44,000.00
Clerk/typist full time (incl benefits)	\$24,000.00
Research assistant 2@30,000	\$60,000.00
Research assistants (grad students) 6@10,000	\$60,000.00
Mainframe Computer and telecommunications	4,800.00
Materials	<u>\$8,000.00</u>

subtotal=\$208,800.00

Year Four

Operating Costs

Director, full time (incl benefits)	\$46,000.00
Clerk/typist full time (incl benefits)	\$26,000.00
Research assistant 2@30,000	\$60,000.00
Research assistants (grad students) 10@10,000	\$100,000.00
Mainframe Computer and telecommunications	6,000.00
Materials	<u>\$9,000.00</u>

subtotal=\$247,000.00

Year Five

Operating Costs

Director, full time (incl benefits)	\$48,000.00
-------------------------------------	-------------

Clerk/typist full time (incl benefits)	\$28,000.00
Research assistant 2@30,000	\$60,000.00
Research assistants (grad students) 10@10,000	\$100,000.00
Mainframe Computer and telecommunications	7,000.00
Materials	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
	subtotal=\$253,000.00

7. Concluding Comments.

(This needs to be developed; essentially simply makes the argument again I think).

Department of Educational Foundations,
Faculty of Education, University of Alberta,
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G5

Shirley;

Thanks for your note about "resourcing" the Women's Research Centre. We have made a number of changes in the proposal, which relate strongly to resources, and these have not yet gone formally to the administration... they will have by the time the meeting is held with Margaret Leahey so I think there is no danger of making something public which has not been addressed internally. The most clearly stated change (although it has always been there as a possibility) is that we will request both university administrations (University of Alberta and Athabasca University) to collaborate in the establishing of the institute. That follows the pattern of collaboration proposed when we sought the chair in women's studies, and has a number of benefits.

Essentially we continue to look at a space with about five offices and a seminar room (which implies furniture), a director and (one) secretarial staff, microcomputer facilities for each office linked to mainframe facilities (for library searches, electronic communications, and for some people for large-scale data manipulation), a copying machine, and funds for research assistants. Paid research assistants will be funded in two ways; through contract research funds and through the internal resources of the centre with most of the latter, we anticipate, going to provide funds for student assistants attached to work at the centre (mostly graduate, but potentially some undergraduate also). Some of these funds may need to be dedicated to ensure that research is done for community groups, or in interdisciplinary areas, or in science (or potentially the humanities), if any of these areas tend to be omitted by the routine decision-making processes.

We anticipate an increased need for library resources, and the research centre would both require these and assist in the search for them, as the centre will not build or house its own library (as Boreal does, for example). Similarly, we will not duplicate the current resource centre, but if women working in the research centre place additional demands on it we will try to take some responsibility in assisting the extension of their collection and improving staffing. We will also need funds for visiting researchers, (perhaps just enough to pay travel costs or some subsistence for scholars on sabbaticals for example), and funds for distributing research results. This may involve written material or the use of other media, annual meetings, or

other as yet unidentified means, but we are at present not thinking of any large-scale enterprise in this regard. (e.g. of publishing a journal).

We continue to see the research centre as many-faceted. It will be a local for critical feminist work within disciplines, for interdisciplinary work, and for collaborative work with and service to the women's community outside of the university. It will become a centre whose main task is feminist research rather than teaching or community action (although it will clearly support and draw upon both of those other activities); as such it will be an independent centre for research which Leahy's group could well make use of, but it will need very good base funding. That base funding should not be contingent upon the vagaries of research contracts, for the work requires long-term commitment of staff. Nor should all research be dependent upon contract dollars, for much of the contribution to knowledge which we can make will not be readily funded by such sources.

Enough, I shall soon be into my elaborate argument about the necessity for such a centre! You only asked about resourcing it! I think, however, the above will give you enough of a picture that you can respond to comments the committee might make, and I expect to also be there to act as a back-up if that is necessary.

Marilyn



to: Prof. M. Assheton-Smith, Co-Chair
Co-ordinating Committee on Women's Studies

date: 4 January, 1988

our file:

from: Vice-President (Academic)

your file:

subject: Proposal for a Women's Research Centre

Thank you for sending me the draft copy of the proposal for a Women's Research Centre. There are two possible routes which such a proposal might take; you may want to reflect on which would best suit the needs on campus as you perceive them at this time.

1. Approval by the Vice-President (Academic):

Under the authority delegated to this office by the Academic Development Committee, I am able to approve the establishment of Centres or Institutes provided that there are no space or resource requirements. Such approval would provide a "name" and legitimacy to some of the activities which you have outlined in your proposal, and has usually been used by other groups who are seeking outside funding for a particular purpose. Normally one of the participating units agrees to provide a "mailbox" for the Institute or Centre but the benefits beyond that derive from the opportunities for like-minded scholars to meet together to develop either their own ideas or more specific proposals for external funding. To some extent this is what you are already doing.

2. Formal University approval through ADC/PPC:

This would be the route to follow if you felt that it was important to secure a University commitment to space or other resources at this time. Your draft proposal would provide a good beginning for a proposal to be made to these bodies, but would require some more definite statement of both the resources which were being requested and how this new Centre might relate to other bodies already established with an interest in women's issues; i.e.; the Women's Studies Program, the Women's Resource Centre and the Co-ordinating Committee on Women's Studies. (Or is it envisioned that this latter would disappear once the new body had been established?) Should you wish to follow this formal route you may wish to ask Evelyn Phillips, Secretary to PPC, for a copy of their proposal outline. While it has been prepared with teaching units in mind, it does provide a general guideline to the type of information which PPC would need before making a decision.

Whichever route you decide to follow there are some additional points of which you should be aware:

- a) The proposal suggests that the proposed Centre might move into the premises now occupied by the International Students' House. So far as I know, this space is to be occupied by the School of Native Studies as soon as the current occupants have moved. Is there some barrier to the continuing use of the Women's Resource Centre which would make new space necessary at this time?
- b) The proposal for funding (p. 14) suggests raising an endowment fund. It would seem that such a special-purpose fund-raising campaign at this time would be in conflict with efforts to establish the Women's Studies Program on a more firm financed basis. Has there been a discussion of how the needs of both groups might be met?

Again, thank you for sharing the proposal with me at this early stage. Please keep me informed of progress. Best wishes for 1988.



J. Peter Meekison
Vice-President (Academic)

AEZ/dc

Meeting with Meekison, Wednesday Dec 9 at 9 a.m.
(Rosemary Liburd and Marilyn Assheton-Smith).

The main purpose was to discuss the Research Centre, and in general to touch bases with Dr. Meekison. We also wanted to ensure that he had the updated list of the membership.

1. He had the updated membership list and the last minutes; he was interested in the Research Centre meeting already held and we discussed that briefly.

2. He now seems to be recommending that the Research Centre proposal go through the decision-making bodies of the university, i.e. Academic Planning Committee and University Priorities Committee. He thinks a copy of the proposal should go to Bob James (V-P Research) as soon as possible, and we should discuss it with him before moving to committees. In principle, it is not essential to route our proposal through this committee structure as he can approve a Research Centre without so doing. However, he should only do so if there are neither space nor financial (line budget) implications for the university. He thinks it would be useful to have it approved by the committees mentioned, even if they would not be likely to fund it at present. Otherwise, we simply asked him to comment on the current proposal, recognizing that it is still more chatty than formal and it will have to be modified in that respect prior to going through the university structure. We agreed to try to get a proposal to him after Christmas; the Academic Planning Committee will not meet until February and it could be on the agenda at that time.

3. He agreed to consider continuing financial support to the committee, of about \$10,000 per year. I have prepared a letter requesting those funds and will send it today if the committee agrees with the content of it.

4. It was a pleasant meeting.