

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S STUDIES

October 25, 1984

AGENDA

- ✓ 1. Welcome to new members
- ✓ 2. Approval of minutes of October 4th
- ✓ 3. Approval of agenda
4. Business arising from the minutes
  - ✓(a) Student representation
  - ✓(b) Administrative support
  - ✓(c) List of potential advisors
5. New Business
  - (a) Terms of reference — *discuss next meeting. — make copy*
  - ✓(b) Information about Carleton's program
  - ✓(c) Alternatives (major discussion)
6. Further Business
  - (a) Chair — next meeting — November 8th — *Jean Laubert chair*
  - (b)
  - (c)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S STUDIES

Minutes of October 25, 1984

In Attendance: G. Babcock, R. Coulter, C. Davies, A. Hall (Chair),  
S. Jackel, J. Lauber, D. Mills, S. Susut

ACTION

1. New members of the committee were introduced and welcomed by the chair.
2. The minutes of October 4th were approved as circulated.
3. Student representation: Dr. Hall reported that she had met with student representatives of the Women's Center who agreed to bring the matter to their next meeting and in all likelihood will send a representative to the Committee.
4. Administrative support: Joint administrative support for our Committee, WISEST, as well as the President's Interim Advisory Committee on Women's Issues (which has not yet met) seems unlikely at this time. It was agreed that Dr. Hall will raise the matter with Dr. Meekison once we have a specific project or proposal which requires financial assistance.
5. List of potential advisors: A list of faculty who we feel have a direct interest in the development of women's studies on Campus was circulated for future use. Committee members were asked to think of other names which should be on the list.
6. Terms of Reference: It was agreed that we should review our terms of reference. Members are asked to refer to the information sent to some of us originally by Dr. Meekison (see attached).

All members

7. Information about Carleton's program: Dr. Hall reported on the meeting with Dr. Jill Vickers (see memo).

ACTION

8. Alternatives: Initial discussion focussed on three basic models: (1) integrationist, (2) multidisciplinary, (3) autonomous. The general consensus was that sometime in between a "multidisciplinary" and an "autonomous" model was a possibility for our campus.

Discussion then focussed on some specific ideas regarding an appropriate model for Alberta. Dr. Jackel agreed to prepare a brief outline of her idea (see attached) to be discussed at the next meeting.

9. Since Dr. Hall cannot attend the next meeting on November 8th, Dr. Lauber kindly agreed to chair the meeting.

JK

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S STUDIES

Minutes of November 8, 1984

In Attendance: R. Coulter, D. Cullen, C. Davies, B. Eyles, S. Jackal,  
N. Keating, J. Lauber (Temporary Chairperson), R. Liburd,  
B. Mandelblatt, D. Mills, R. Sydnie.

Regrets: A. Hall, S. Susat, P. Clements

Action

1. The two new student members were welcomed and introduced (Birdie Mandelblatt, Barbara Eyles). They can be reached at the Women's Centre, Box 41 SU.
2. Rebecca related the contents of a note from Ann, indicating that further news regarding the Prairie Chair is unlikely until after the C.R.I.A.W. Conference. It does look hopeful, however, that the new government will honor the commitment of the previous government to fund the five chairs.
3. Susan announced that Veronica Strong-Boag from S.F.U. will be on campus November 15. Sue will take the visitor to the Women's Centre on Thursday afternoon.
4. Rebecca corrected what she thought might have been a mistaken impression following previous discussions: that Athabasca University credits would not be accepted by the University of Alberta. She pointed out that most credits are fully transferable between the two universities, although of course there may be faculty or department requirements and/or restrictions in particular programs, which must be met.
5. There followed a free ranging discussion of the draft proposal which had been circulated, for a women's studies program based in the Faculty of Arts. There was general agreement on the order of introduction of the program, in five stages, minor, major, BA [Women's Studies (Specialization or Honours)] followed by M.A. and Ph.D. programs. The student members pointed out that it would be highly desirable to have the new offerings clearly identifiable, and available for acceptance (e.g. as minor, major) in a degree program. It was noted that the graduate programs would be under Graduate Studies, not Arts, where there are already precedents for trans-faculty administration and cooperation. On the other hand, new courses require only department approval, while new programs require new funding, and need Faculty, G.F.C., Board and Ministerial approval.

Several members suggested that we should stress the concept that the proposed program would not only permit, but require, a proportion of out-of-faculty courses: i.e., it would be more of a liberal studies program than most now in place.

It became apparent that one or several core courses would have to be designed early in the planning process. There was no consensus as to whether it/they should be at the junior or senior level. Sue agreed to ask for syllabi of core courses already underway at other universities in Canada. Each member of the committee was charged with putting together a proposed syllabus from her/his own perspective, for discussion at a future meeting.

Susan

All members

Several members pointed out that before we put much time into course/program development, we need assurance from the V.P. (Academic) that there will be at least one F.T.E.-academic, plus some administrative support, attached to the project at an early date (in addition to the Chair, if we get it). Jean and Susan to set up (tentatively) a lunch meeting on Thursday, November 15th, at which they would brief Ann & Pat Clements on this point, and decide who should do this.

Jean, Susan,  
Pat, Ann

6. Discussion then turned to the possibility of setting up a Research Institute in Women's Studies. There would be several advantages:

- a) It would provide research emphasis, even during the early phases when we have only undergraduate courses.
- b) It would provide a basis for a fund-raising effort; contributions would carry tax advantage and be matchable by the Province.
- c) It would provide a "home" for the senior scholar(s) appointed to W.S. Chairs.
- d) It would provide some administrative structure for the fledgling program, a clearly identifiable unit to which present staff could be seconded, budgets (e.g. library, visiting speakers) could be assigned, etc. Dallas and Ros. agreed to look into the logistics of setting up such an institute.

Dallas, Ros

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S STUDIES

November 22, 1984

AGENDA

1. Approval of minutes of November 8th
2. Approval of agenda
3. Business arising from the minutes
  - (a) Report of the chair
  - (b) Draft proposal
  - (c) Research institute
  - (d) Terms of reference
4. New Business
  - (a) CRIAW conference
  - (b) Suggestions for visiting speakers
  - (c) Visitors already scheduled
  - (d) Input from student group (see material)
5. Further Business
  - (a) Comments/suggestions re process to date
  - (b) *Nancy's announcements.*
  - (c)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S STUDIES

Minutes of November 22, 1984

In Attendance: M. Assheton-Smith, D. Cullen, B. Eyles, A. Hall (Chair),  
S. Jackel, N. Keating, J. Lauber, B. Mandelblatt, S. Susut,  
R. Sydie.

Regrets: P. Clements, R. Coulter, R. Liburd, D. Mills.

ACTION

1. Ann reported on her recent meeting with Dr. Meekism (see memo attached).
2. No word to date has been received concerning the Chair in Women's Studies for the Prairie region.
3. Circulated (see attached for those not at the meeting) was a critique of Women's Studies. Committee members were asked to read it and develop counter arguments.
4. Information has been received concerning a course in "Feminist Theology" offered at St. Stephen's College by Dr. Bill Close. Ann will investigate this further to learn more about the course.
5. Discussion focussed on the draft proposal which situates a Women's Studies program within the Faculty of Arts. Although we are agreed that it is useful to look at the potential of a specific program in a specific faculty, we do not wish to close our minds to other possibilities.

All Members

Ann

Therefore, after some discussion, we agreed to focus our attention on the first core course in Women's Studies which would be needed regardless of where a program is housed. It was felt that such an exercise would assist us as individuals and as a group to focus on what we consider to be the most important elements of the total program. Our intent, therefore, is to spend considerably more time developing content rather than administrative structure.

We will also seek out the outlines of similar courses across the country for the use of any members who wish to peruse them.

It was agreed that this would be the focus of our next meeting and that all members should give considerable thought between now and then as to what, in a general sense, they see as the most important content for a first level core course in Women's Studies.

All Members

ACTION

- |     |   |                          |
|-----|---|--------------------------|
| 6.  | The concept of a research institute was discussed again and it was agreed that similarly we need to focus on what such an institute would do rather than what, administratively it would look like. Dallas and Ros will continue to work on this project.   | Dallas, Ros              |
| 7.  | It was agreed that our "Terms of Reference" are fine as they are for now and that we will review them again in a few months.  |                          |
| 8.  | Several of those (Susan, Marilyn, Ann) who attended the annual conference recently in Montreal of the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women reported on the highly successful nature of the conference.  |                          |
| 9.  | Pat Clements has initiated an ad hoc committee within the Faculty of Arts to organize a visiting speaker program of distinguished feminist scholars. Suggestions should be sent directly to Pat. As well, Marilyn agreed to liase with Pat and her committee.   | All Members<br>Marilyn   |
| 10. | Aside from the above, visitors already scheduled include Margrit Eichler from the Ontario Institute for Studies in <del>Edmonton</del> who will be visiting the campus between March 7 and 21st under the Distinguished Visitor Program. Requests for her time should be directed to Sandy who has been responsible for bringing her to our campus. Margrit has also agreed to work with the committee. Also, Margaret Fulton, President of Mount St. Vincent University will be speaking to the Academic Women's Association on February 28th. Susan will check to see if she can come a day early to meet with the committee. | All Members<br><br>Susan |
| 11. | We have received a written submission (enclosed for those not at the meeting) from a group of students calling themselves "Women Students for Women's Studies". Ann will meet with the group before our next meeting. All members should read their proposal. Next meeting we need to decide on how we respond to these proposals and suggestions and whether we wish to meet with this particular group as they have suggested.  | Ann<br><br>All Members   |
| 12. | The meeting ended with each member providing comments and suggestions, both positive and negative, as to our process to date. It seemed to be a useful exercise and will be continued.  |                          |

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S STUDIES

December 6, 1984

AGENDA

1. Approval of minutes of November 22nd

2. Approval of agenda

3. Business arising from the minutes

- (a) Report of the chair
- (b) Draft proposal
- (c) Research institute
- (d) Women Students for Women's Studies Brief
- (e) Speaker program

- ① Re report in social science meeting
- ② Re names from DE of State
- ③ Re Women's Prog - Faculty  
of Extension

4. New Business

- (a) Women's Studies Core Course

5. Further Business

- (a) Schedule of meetings in second term
- (b) Comments/suggestions re process to date
- (c)
- (d)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S STUDIES

Minutes of December 6, 1984

In Attendance: M. Assheton-Smith, P. Clements, D. Cullen, B. Eyles,  
A. Hall (Chair), S. Jackel, J. Lauber, R. Liburd,  
B. Mandelblatt, D. Mills, S. Susut, R. Sydie.

Guests: Kathryn Ivany and Audrey Bell-Hiller.

Regrets: N. Keating, C. Davies.

1. Item 10 of the minutes of November 22nd was corrected:  
"Edmonton" in line 3 should be "Education".
2. Ann reported on the unfortunate announcement in the November  
15th issue of the Social Science Federation of Canada  
newsletter that a Chair in Women's Studies had received  
"approval in principle" at the University of Alberta. This  
was, of course, an editorial error and the newsletter plans  
to retract the statement in the next issue.

As a result, Ann had a lengthy conversation with Maria Tiley  
in the Women's Program (Secretary of State, Ottawa) and  
there is still no indication when the Minister plans to  
announce the Chair for the Prairie region.

3. It appears that a grant or contribution will be available to  
us in the near future from the Edmonton regional office of  
the Secretary of State. Depending on the amount available,  
it was agreed that the following are our priorities:
  - a) Hiring of a part or full-time coordinator to assist with  
the administrative work of the committee.
  - b) An evening and full day (e.g. FRI-SAT) workshop/retreat  
for the committee in order to concentrate on its work  
for a longer period of time. Westridge Lodge near  
Devon was suggested as a possible location.
  - c) Bringing in one or two visiting speakers who might  
also consult with the committee as well as giving a  
public lecture.

Action by

d) Administrative costs (e.g. surveying student need).

Ann will continue to negotiate with Secretary of State on the availability of funding.

Ann

4. Sandy reported that at the recent Council Meeting of the Faculty of Extension, the following motion was approved:

"Be it resolved that the Women's Program be accepted as an ongoing responsibility of the Faculty of Extension in the same way as other program areas within the Faculty, for example the General Interest, Applied Behavioral Sciences and Public Administration programs."

5. Two representatives from the Women Students for Women's Studies group were present and a brief discussion took place concerning their brief to the committee.

It was agreed that the W.S.W.S. group will receive an agenda and copy of the minutes for each meeting in case they wish to make further contributions to the work of the committee.

6. There was nothing new to report concerning the draft proposal, research institute or speaker program.

7. The major discussion of the meeting concerned core courses for a women's studies program. Attached are the ideas only which, for the moment, define two core courses -- one introductory and one senior level.

The following are the agreed upon general principles which underlie these courses.

- a) The focus will be on women's experience and issues.
- b) The starting point will be women's experience but linkages must be made to theoretical issues (e.g. the structure of knowledge).
- c) There must be a recognition of the emotional impact of this material on students and the subsequent responsibility of the instructor to deal with it appropriately.
- d) The senior level course will attempt to integrate the experiential and theoretical issues.

Several sample course outlines, designed by various committee members, were circulated for information (see attached).

Action by

8. It was agreed that the focus of our next meeting (in January) would be twofold:

All members

a) More work on the core course(s).

b) Where would these courses fit into a program and what should the program look like on the University of Alberta campus?

9. Members were asked to submit their time tables for the second term so that a schedule of meetings could be drawn up.

All members

SOCIOLOGY 301:A3

Sociology of Sex Roles

Instructor: Dr. R. Sydie

The following texts are required and may be obtained from the University Bookstore.

J.L. Dubbert, A Man's Place. Prentice-Hall, 1979.

S.J. Wilson, Women, The Family and the Economy, McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1982.

GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE:

	<u>Dubbert</u>	<u>Wilson</u>
Comparative socio-historical review	Chaps 1-5	
First Women's movement		Chap 5
Dimensions of sex role relationships: <i>Gender difference, Biology,</i>		
1) <del>Division of labour</del> <i>Socialisation.</i>		Chap 2
OCTOBER 23, 1984: EXAM NO. 1		
2) Paid labour and housework		Chaps 4, 6
3) North American ideals and reality	Chaps 6, 7	Chap 3
NOVEMBER 20, 1984: EXAM NO. 2		
Sociological theory		Chap 1
Possibilities for change	Chap 8 and the epilogue	Chaps 7, 8

---

The exams will be a combination of the texts assigned and the lectures. Absence from any exam will only be given consideration when accompanied by a doctor's certificate. There will be no make-up exams assigned in the event of an exam missed due to illness but the percentage weight will be assigned to the remaining exam scores. All exams will be multiple choice. Stanines will only be given after the final exam mark is assigned.

EXAM WEIGHTING:

Exam No. 1:	35%
Exam No. 2:	30%
Exam No. 3:	35%

TOPICS TO BE COVERED IN A SCIENCE-ORIENTED WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSE

The biology of reproductive systems (human & other vertebrates)

- >anatomic similarities/ differences - ♀ + ♂
- >endocrine " "
- >developmental " "
- >the genetic basis of sexual dimorphism
- >evolution of intraspecific traits
- >secondary sex characters

Malformation/ malfunction of the female reproductive system

Women as recipients of health care delivery

Pregnancy

Parenting

The nature vs nurture debate

Sex-based (?) learning & behavior

- >verbal/ artistic
- >mechanical/ spatial
- >math..
- >the caring/ nurturing role

Left brain: right brain

The use and misuse of statistics

Actuarial tables

Rites of passage

- >infancy
- >puberty
- >menarche
- >fecundity
- >menopause
- >post-menopause

Androgyny, sexual preference

Sexually transmitted diseases

Sexual assault, sexual harassment

Women in scientific careers

Science education, health education, sex education.

## Women and Society: A Core Course

### OBJECTIVE

#### Section One: Introduction

The Concept of Stratification in Societies; class, race, and gender as factors in stratification, "gender stratification".

Problems with the concept (work as paid labour; education as schooling; occupations as vertically ranked; the underlying symbolic structure of the knowledge system as vertical and hierarchical).

Emphasis on the structure of knowledge, the strategy of science as analytic and Newtonian.

#### Section Two: Women and Social Institutions

- a) Women in the Economy
- b) Women in Education
- c) Women in the Family
- d) Women in Politics
- e) Women in the Church, the symbolic sphere

#### Section Three: The Feminist response

- a) Knowledge and power as hierarchy or what, critical knowledge in the Kantian sense; ie. how is it possible to "know" the above?
- b) Gynocentric vs Androcentric models
- c) Equality of Opportunity; first level response
- d) Romanticism and Intuition
- e) Transformation as second level response; other possibilities.

#### Section Four: Some concluding comments.

December 6, 1984

IDEAS FOR CORE COURSES IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

I. First Level Core Course -- Women's Experience/Issues

Introduction

- Why women's studies?
- Why the women's movement?

Education  
Medical  
Economics  
Legal  
Double Jeopardy Women  
Theology  
Images of Women  
Politics

} See suggested issues/topics in  
outline by B. Mandelblatt and  
B. Eyles.

Women's Response

- Relationship between theory and action.

II. Senior Level Core Course -- Theoretical Linkages

For example:

Linguistic analysis  
Structure of knowledge  
Aesthetic evaluation  
Sexual division of labour  
Women's movement  
Biological sex differences  
History of women's studies  
Psychological development  
Feminist research

Women's Studies - Contemporary Issues

EDUCATION

- sexist course content and literature
- streaming in secondary and primary
- sexual harassment
- academics - wage inequity, problems of tenure

MEDICAL

- abortion
- midwifery
- childbirth
- pregnancy, contraception
- cancer
- menopause

ECONOMICS

- unemployed
- elderly
- poverty
- single parents

LEGAL

- women in prison
- prostitution
- lesbianism
- affirmative action
- pornography
- sexual assault
- wife battering
- incest

DOUBLE JEOPARDY WOMEN

- native women
- immigrant women
- third world women

THEOLOGY

- catholicism
- multi-religious

IMAGES OF WOMEN

- women in media
- sexist advertising
- women in theatre, art, literature

POLITICS

- women in Marxism
- women in the New Right
- women in Peace movement