

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
*Office of the Vice-President, Academic*

Memorandum

To: Members of Senate

From: J.M. Munro  
Vice-President, Academic  
and Chair of SCAP

Subject: Change in status  
of Women's Studies, from a  
Program to Department

Date: 19 September 1991

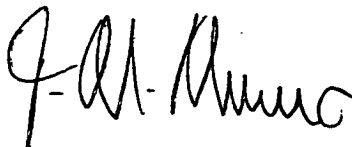
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The Senate Committee on Academic Planning considered the recommendation that the status of Women's Studies be changed from a Program to a Department. Dr. Kimball appeared before SCAP and supplemented the materials which had been circulated in advance of the meeting with a succinct analysis of the maturity of Women's Studies as a discipline. The comments she provided to SCAP are attached.

SCAP approved the recommendation without opposition, and forwards the following motion to Senate for approval:

That Women's Studies be changed from a Program to a Department.

If this motion is approved by Senate, the motion should be forwarded to the Board of Governors for approval.

  
J.M. Munro

Enclosure

cc: M. Kimball

## Women's Studies - Maturity of the Discipline

### Number of Programs

1. There are more than 400 programs in Women's Studies in the US; 15 programs offer a masters degree, and there is 1 Ph.D. program.
2. In Canada, there are over 20 programs.

13 institutions offer majors or combined majors programs;  
13 institutions offer minors programs;  
3 institutions offer graduate programs (Simon Fraser, Concordia and Carleton)

There are no institutions presently offering a Ph.D. program, although the first Special Arrangements Ph.D. candidate successfully defended the oral examination in September 1991 at Simon Fraser University.

### Independent Body of Scholarship

1. At least 8 academic journals are devoted to Women's Studies. Articles are reviewed anonymously.
2. The rejection rates for these journals range from 60% to 93% of articles submitted, and these are similar rates to journals in adjacent fields.

### Demand for places in Women's Studies Programs

1. The Women's Studies Graduate Program receives over 40 applications each year for entry into the program. In general, 4-6 applicants are admitted each year. In addition, there is a growing interest in doctoral work.

### Future Developments

1. The short term focus will be on the development of a major in Women's Studies. One joint major (with English) already exists, and a second (with Psychology) is in the approval process.
2. The longer term objective would be the development of a doctoral program, which would probably take three to five years to develop and implement.

3. The faculty in the program have joint appointments with other programs, an arrangement which is satisfactory to the incumbents, and there is no intention to change these appointments to full-time appointments within Women's Studies.
4. The only resources increase which will result from the transformation of the program into a department, is the increase in stipend which will be paid to the chair of the department (the increase will cost \$2,870 p.a.). In addition, the chair will require an office in the Women's Studies area.

**FACULTY POSITIONS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>APPOINTMENT</u>
Stewart, M.L.	Professor	Joint appointment with History
Wendell, S.D.	Assoc. Professor	Joint appointment with Philosophy
Kimball M.M.	Assoc. Professor	Joint appointment with Psychology
Vacant Position		Joint appointment with History
Levitin, J.	Assoc. Professor	Joint appointment with School of Contemporary Arts
Vacant Position		Full-time position in Women's Studies
Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair		Women's Studies
Nesmith, C.	Assist. Professor	Joint appointment with Geography
Cohen, M.	Professor	Joint appointment with Political Sc.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts  
MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Jock Munro  
Vice-President, Academic

From: R. C. Brown  
Dean of Arts

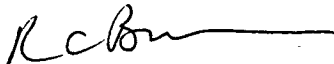
Subject: Departmental Status:  
Women's Studies

Date: 9 July 1991

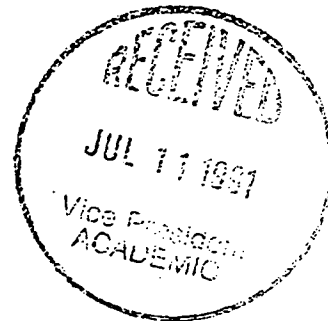
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Attached is a proposal from Dr. Meredith Kimball to change the status of the Women's Studies Program to the Department of Women's Studies. The Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee has approved the proposal and it also was approved by majority vote in a Faculty referendum. Please forward our proposal to the Senate Committee on Academic Planning for its consideration.

RCB/hj

  
R. C. Brown  
Dean of Arts

Att:



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
memorandum

TO R.C. Brown  
Dean  
Faculty of Arts

FROM M. Kimball  
Co-ordinator  
Women's Studies

RE Departmental Status: Rationale

DATE 6 March 1991

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I request that you put the following motion before the appropriate university bodies:

That the status of Women's Studies be changed from a Program to a Department.

During consideration of the catch-up and three-year planning undertaken in the Fall of 1989 members of the Women's Studies Program considered and unanimously supported the above proposal. The decision was a result of the analysis of the past twenty years of experience of Women's Studies as an international discipline and of the growth of the Women's Studies graduate and undergraduate programs at Simon Fraser University. We concluded that both the faculty members and program are at a level of maturity which deserves and requires departmental status.

A. BACKGROUND

Program Growth

1. a) Increase in the number of undergraduate and graduate courses: In the fall of 1976 seven undergraduate Women's Studies courses were listed in the calendar. In the current calendar twenty-two undergraduate and eleven graduate courses are listed.

b) Increase in the number of undergraduate course offerings: In the first fall of the program [i.e. 1976], four courses were offered. In the fall of 1985, there were six. We now offer 10 to 12 courses in the fall semester (12 in 89-3; 10 in 90-3, 12 planned for 91-3).

2. Undergraduate Enrollment increase: Enrollment figures for the fall semester have gone from 84 in 76-3 to 281 in 90-3. The figure for 80-3 was 98. This is an increase of over 180% from 1980 to 1990. The increase can be broken down further: 1980-85, 64.3%; 1985-90, 74.5%; which indicates that the increase is accelerating.

3. Increase in minors in the program: In 1985-3 there were 24 enrolled minors [we have no figures for the number declared]. In 1990-3 we had 46 of 53 declared minors enrolled and in 1991-1 this increased to 53 of 59 declared minors enrolled.

#### 4. Growth in Faculty Appointments:

In the fall of 1976 there were two joint appointments. In the fall of 1991 there will be eight joint appointments in addition to the Ruth Wynn Woodward Endowed Professorship.<sup>1</sup>

#### 5. New degrees:

a) The Women's Studies M.A. Program was begun in 1985 with two students, and now has 15 students.

b) The W.S. Certificate Program has been approved, effective September 1990, and now has 3 students.

c) Women's Studies students can do Co-op Education through the Liberal Arts Co-Op Education Program and a Post Baccalaureate Diploma through the Faculty of Arts PBD Program.

d) A joint major with the English Department has just been approved and already has enrolled four students. A second joint major with the Psychology Department is being developed.

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Our academic program is recognized as one of the foremost in Canada and the United States and attracts international interest.

#### Community Service

The awarding of the Endowed Chair in Women's Studies has brought the SFU Program to national prominence and the holders of the Ruth Wynn Woodward Professorship in Women's Studies have expanded the teaching and community work of the program beyond the university to the province of B.C. and to the Yukon. As well, our Certificate Program addresses students' needs to transfer their Women's Studies knowledge to job situations and buttresses the community outreach aspects of the Woodward Chair.

In conjunction with the Endowed Chair, Women's Studies has developed a speakers list of faculty and graduate students prepared to make presentations to women in communities outside the Lower Mainland. Each year we update the list of available topics, formats, and presenters, and circulate it with a covering letter to women's centres, programs, etc. in BC and the Yukon. This facilitates our outreach work to women who are unlikely to be able to come to the Lower Mainland to participate in Chair activities.

<sup>1</sup> It might be argued that there is an insufficient number of faculty with full appointments in Women's Studies for the transfer to departmental status. This is, however, a "catch twenty-two" type of argument. The preponderance of joint appointments are a consequence of the early history of the program. Regardless of joint appointments the history and development of the program to date clearly indicate the high level of faculty commitment to Women's Studies, a commitment which will continue with departmental status which will result in Women's Studies having a faculty complement that includes a combination of full and joint appointments.

This series has been very successful. From October 1990 through March 1991, 11 speakers, (regular faculty, sessional instructors and graduate students) will have travelled to 10 towns and cities throughout BC and to Whitehorse, Yukon. Requests for speakers exceed what our budget can accommodate.

## B. PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT

The increase in enrollment plus the inquiries we receive for undergraduate and graduate courses has led us to conclude that we should now begin to undertake development<sup>2</sup> in the following areas:

1. Creation of new joint-majors and the development of a Women's Studies major.
2. Expansion of the M.A. Program
3. Development of a Women's Studies Ph.D.

### 1. Joint Majors, Major

The creation of joint major programs with several departments has already begun. The Women's Studies-English joint major has now been approved and negotiations for a Women's Studies-Psychology joint major are underway. The demand for a major program is there, and many institutions in North America offer the major. The appointments of Marjorie Cohen and Catherine Nesmith have expanded the faculty complement so that development of a Women's Studies major will now be undertaken. This development has been contemplated for some time, but was not undertaken during the period of restraint when no new appointments were being made. Further, it was always our intention to move into a major program, and achieving departmental status will contribute to this move.

### 2. Expansion of the M.A. Program

Our M.A. program has been very successful in attracting qualified students. Each term we are unable to take several qualified students because there is not a faculty member available to supervise work in their area. Clearly the demand exists, in terms of qualified applicants, to create a larger high quality M.A. program when the resources are available.

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<sup>2</sup> We note that in his challenge 2001 document, President Saywell designates Women's Studies as an area where programs should be elaborated, a position which these development plans address.

3. Ph.D Students

As with all other levels of the program, we have had an increase in inquiries into the willingness of our faculty to undertake special arrangements Ph.D.s. Obviously, we have been unable to respond to these requests because of constraints on faculty time, and our first commitment to the M.A. Program. But this is an area into which we could expand, given more resources, and indeed would like to. In turn this raises the question of developing a Women's Studies Ph.D. As Women's Studies expands in universities across the continent, the demand for Ph.D.s in this field increases. Simon Fraser's Women's Studies Program has the credentials and the experience to undertake Ph.D. instruction, and we should be among the major grantors of this degree in Canada. We have always been at the forefront of the development of Women's Studies, and an extension into this degree follows from our previous work and achievements.

C. BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS

There will be no immediate budgetary requirements associated with the implementation of departmental status. Clearly in the long run more faculty, especially full-time appointments in Women's Studies, and staff positions will be required to implement both the major and the Ph.D programs. However, these should occur as a part of the normal university growth over the next 10-20 years, as indicated in the Challenge 2001 document.

Conclusion

The reasons for changing Women's Studies' status from that of a program to a department are obvious enough. Through the eight full-time joint appointments and the full-time appointment of the Ruth Wynn Woodward Professorship, the program is operating as, and has assumed all of the responsibilities of, a department. The extent of our curriculum at the graduate and undergraduate level is equal to or more extensive than other departments of comparable size. The quality and importance of the program have been acknowledged by the granting of a federally funded endowed chair. Our co-ordinator has a workload equal to that of other small departments, although she does not receive the same compensation. We sit on the DAC, and form a DTC from our own faculty. Finally we are about to develop several joint majors and a major and to undertake consideration of the feasibility of a Ph.D program. We are doing the work of a department in teaching, research, community and committee work, and now is an appropriate time for the University to recognize this.

*Marilyn Kirkall*  
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