

Women's and Gender Studies ARTICULATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL on ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFERS (BCCAT)

Simon Fraser University – Harbour Centre

12 May 2017, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Present:

Committee Member Name	Institution Name	Email/contact
Trish Matson (Chair)	Douglas College	matsont@douglascollege.ca
Helen Leung (Host)	Simon Fraser University	hhl@sfu.ca
Nancy Pollak (Recording Secretary)	Langara College	npollak@langara.ca
Annalee Lepp	University of Victoria	alepp@uvic.ca
Helen Lansdowne	Camosun College	HLansdow@camosun.bc.ca
Jacqueline Holler	University of Northern B.C	Jacqueline.Holler@unbc.ca
Allyson Jule	Trinity Western University	Allyson.Jule@twu.ca
Andrea Westcott	Capilano University	awestcot@capilanou.ca
Sally Mennill	Douglas College	mennills@douglascollege.ca
Lindy Munk	College of New Caledonia	munk@cnc.bc.ca
Janet Mayr	Selkirk College	jmayr@selkirk.ca
Ilya Parkins	UBC-Okanagan	Ilya.parkins@ubc.ca
Melissa Munn	Okanagan College	mmunn@okanagan.bc.ca

Guest Name	Institution/Agency	Email/contact
Robert Adamoski	BCCAT	

Recorder: Nancy Pollak, Langara College

Welcome from Trish Matson, Douglas College, Chair

- 1. Meeting Called to Order at 10:00 a.m.**
- 2. Introductions/welcome**

- Thank you to Helen Leung, SFU, for hosting

Regrets: Bianca Brigidi, Quest University; Julia Denholm, Capilano University and the SLP; Janis Ledwell-Hunt, Vancouver Island University; Richelle Gardiner-Hynds, North Island College; Chris Carr, North West Community College; and Susan Power, Kwantlen.

3. Approval of Agenda and Any Additional Items

Motion: to adopt the Agenda with subtraction (no JAM 2016 report, due to Julia's absence)

MOVED: Helen Leung SECONDED: Andrea Westcott CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes of the Articulation Committee meeting of 13 May 2016

Motion: to accept the Minutes as presented

MOVED: Lindy Munk SECONDED: Allyson Jule CARRIED

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

5.0 Informational Brochure Update (Jacqueline Holler, UNBC)

Jacqueline Holler presented us with a mockup of a multi-panelled brochure that briefly profiles the Gender, Sexualities & Women's Studies programs at our various institutions. *Thank you very much, Jacqueline!*

The brochure's intended audiences are high school guidance counsellors and prospective students (and their parents); its aim is to inform and to entice students to our courses and programs.

We again discussed the relative merits of: a full-size print brochure; a punchy postcard ("Go to the website!"); and a dedicated webpage, ergo a digital version of the brochure. We considered housing this digital version on the BCCAT website, but abandoned the idea due to the website's limitations.

We decided to produce two items: 1. an enticing **postcard** that directs readers to 2. a devastatingly informative **website**.

Action:

Website:

> Bianca Brigidi (Quest) will be asked to create the website ("**Gender, Sexualities & Women's Studies in BC**"), with a hyperlinkable version of the brochure. We want a WordPress website that enables each program to update their own information as the need arises.

> If you have not yet submitted your program blurb for the website, please send it to Bianca.

> Annalee Lepp (UVic) will write an introductory paragraph that extols the excitement, relevance, and career opportunities associated with GSW's Studies (transferable, cutting edge, etc.).

Postcard:

> Melissa Munn (Okanagan College) will generate a mock-up of the postcard, with input from Helen Leung (SFU) re: a compelling image or logo. Writhing ampersands, anyone?

6. BCCAT Business

6.0 Report on JAM 2016 (unavailable)

6.1 Pending Requests in the Articulation System

There were two requests brought to the attention of a few attendees: GSWS2101 (from Douglas College) and GSWS 269 (from Okanagan College).

6.2 Some Articulation issues

Melissa Munn (Okanagan College) described a situation with a cross-listed course that was being inconsistently articulated ("Women, Crime & Justice" – gender studies / criminology / sociology). We had a

useful discussion about slippages with crosslisted courses in our discipline, the need to finesse articulation requests, and the practices of sending and receiving institutions. The upshot?

> If you are the sending institution, communicate very clearly to the receiving institution where the request should go (to which department(s)/programs). This helps neutralize the discretionary factor in how requests are routed.

> If you are the receiving institution, bear in mind that an articulation request relates to whether your program *could be* offering this course, not whether it actually is, at this time.

> It behooves colleges to keep close tabs on whether their courses are transferring appropriately to universities. When a problem arises, best to directly contact the Department chair for a remedy.

7.2 BCCAT Report

7. *Presentation of Institutional Reports*

Camosun College / Helen Lansdowne (2017)

Our first and second-year courses continue to be well-enrolled (some pre-requisites were removed for the 2nd year course). We're currently updating the first-year Introductory course and seeking information on textbooks used elsewhere. The ongoing influx of international students has led to discussions regarding a reappraisal of what and how we teach.

Capilano University / Andrea Westcott (2017)

A new jointly taught course, "Introduction to Queer Theories and Identities," ran successfully in 2017 spring, under the prefix LBST 401 Case Studies in Contemporary Issues (with the Liberal Studies Program). The pressing issue continues to be the limited number of course (4) offerings for students. A recent survey at Cap revealed the most consistent request from students is more choice. Yet despite relatively few faculty members and decidedly few course offerings, the WGST program makes itself highly visible on campus and within the community by holding many events throughout the year. These events point out where women still struggle *and* where they have succeeded in their feminist causes (e.g., a workshop by WAVAW on "Confronting Rape Culture in Canada," affiliated with WGST 100. This same class collected donations for the WISH Foundation, to distribute to women in the Downtown Eastside; readings (novelist Claudia Casper and poet Sharanpal Ruprai) and programs for the December 6 Memorial and IWD).

College of New Caledonia / Lindy Munk (2017)

The renaming of the Women's Studies and Gender Relations Diploma is being considered (e.g. Gender and Sexualities) and there are discussions about further developing the diploma into an Associate of Arts degree. There has been an increase in student enrollments in the 100-level courses (WMST 101 and WMST 102) and 200-level course enrollments have remained steady. A number of courses have been renamed and new courses are being developed at the 200 level (Queering the Social; Queer Theory and Gender; and Gender, Sexuality, and Identity). There is renewed optimism with growth in the area. Some questions have arisen in relation to renaming the program. For example, when developing courses, how much of the content needs to be gender focused? In addition, there is the issue of adding sexualities to the name when not all instructors teach in that area. Events organized over the last year included the December 6th Candlelight Vigil and Memorial and the Annual Chili Blanket event in December and a very successful IWD event featuring local artists in March.

Douglas College / Trish Matson (2017)

Trish Matson noted that what was Women's Studies and Gender Relations at Douglas College has become Gender, Sexualities and Women's Studies. The program is administered by the Associate of Arts Coordinator, Melanie Young, and an Advisory Committee. The two required first-year courses are offered typically 4 times a year and fill; the program has now added a second-year GSWS course, 'Gender Today' (a second 2nd-year course on 'Transnational Feminisms' is a future possibility). In addition to the 3 required GSWS courses, students enrolled in the AA take a range of designated courses across disciplines. Currently 11 students are enrolled in

the AA. Douglas has also created block transfer agreements with Royal Roads University (BA Professional Communication) and Capilano University (BA Liberal Studies). GSWS faculty have been active in promoting GSWS on campus and in collaborating with the Women's and Pride Collectives on campus.

Kwantlen / Susan Power

Langara College / Nancy Pollak (2017)

Langara continues to have a thriving Women's Studies program, offering 13 sections of 1st and 2nd year courses per year, all fully attended with significant waitlists. (Alas, unable to budge the college re: funding more sections). In our upcoming program review (fall 2017), we will investigate a name and orientation change for the program (e.g. Women's and Gender Studies) to better reflect the themes and range of our courses. The internationalization of the student body has affected the College as a whole (concerns about inadequate supports for IE students re: language and study skills) and our WS program (students who enroll because they need a course yet lack any interest in the subject matter, which dampens the classroom dynamic). Nevertheless, the program has excellent vital signs re: students, instructors, and support within the parent department (Interdisciplinary Studies).

North Island College / Richelle Gardiner-Hynds (2017)

No changes to report, still offering two 100-level WST courses. No staffing changes. Two noteworthy events: December 6th -- National Day of Remembrance was held at 3 campuses, to educate younger students about Montreal, 1989. And March 8th IWD was held at 3 campuses on the theme "Statements of courage and change."

Northern Lights College / Connie Kaweesi

Northwest Community College / Christine Carr

Okanagan College / Melissa Munn (2017)

We've officially changed our course titles from Women's Studies to Gender, Sexualities and Women's Studies. It's exciting to finally be GSWS, a more apt and reflective code for our courses. No dept. expansion but we're offering a greater variety of courses because of cross-listings; seems an effective strategy in our small institution (e.g., WMST 269 Studies in Sexualities, a partnership with Sociology). However, there's been some confusion with transferring these cross-listed courses (e.g, Women, Crime and Justice course is cross-listed as SOCI/CRIM/GSWS 204) as well as some lingering problems re: course numbering (e.g., Eco-Feminism GSWS 222 only transfers out to UBC and UBC-O as a first-year course.) The department is 3 faculty on continuing appointments (one full-time GSWS member; the others cross-appointments). Number of students enrolled in GSWS courses in 2016-17 has been relatively stable. We've been trying to get our students involved on campus and community acts of praxis. Some success this year (e.g., involvement in MMIW event in February 2017; work on popular education materials on Consent and Violence Against Women.) We hope to expand this in the coming year.

Quest University / Bianca Brigidi

Selkirk College / Janet Mayr (2017)

Selkirk offers 2 introductory courses in Women's Studies- WS 100 and WS 101. Student enrolments for both WS courses have had continuous increases over the past 2016/2017 academic year. No staffing changes or transfer issues. The college has a new 2 year Law and Justice Studies diploma program, several initiatives focused on indigenization and reconciliation, and an Internationalization Strategic Plan. Selkirk College celebrated 50 years in fall 2016.

Simon Fraser University / Helen Hok-Sze Leung (2017)

Enrollments in the GSWS program have continued to substantially expand and grow. This year (2016-7) is an all-time high (1610 students), with a 31% increase from the previous year. Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences enrollments are generally in decline, so our department continues to do exceptionally well by contrast. We added one new course GSWS 351 “Critical Disability Studies” and modified our Major/Joint Majors program requirement by raising the lower-division requirement from 12 to 18 units. New special topics courses include cross-department offerings: “Gendering the Environment” and “Gender and Sports,” as well as “Women, Property, the Law in the Mediterranean” and “On Antiquity”; “Political Representation of Women in Film and Literature”; and “Gender and Performance”. In 2017-18, we’ll offer a course on gender, race, youth and the media, as well as a course on women in the Downtown Eastside. These are cross-department alliances, to help expand our curriculum and enrollments. We recently developed a set of departmental Educational Goals (formerly, Learning Outcomes) and mapped our curriculum onto these goals (available on request). This was required by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), from which SFU was granted formal accreditation in 2016. GSWS faculty and students continue to generate substantial scholarly research and community outreach, including the reinstated Ruth Wynn Woodward travelling speaker series.

Trinity Western University / Allyson Jule (2017)

The Gender Studies Institute is growing and investing in conversations necessary and relevant to the Trinity community. Our 5 cross-listed Gender courses have ~30—50 students per term; though we have relatively few Gender Studies minors, our courses fill up. Next academic year, we plan to create an introduction to Gender Studies courses to serve as an entry point for students into the minor; we are also set to present a proposal for a Gender Studies Minor at TWU by the 2018-19 academic year. Beyond the courses, , we have a GSI Book Collection (on loan to students), hold monthly Gender Cafes, and sponsor a lecture series in the spring term – all very well attended. The GSI turns ten years old in 2018, and we will be celebrating with a number of events.

University of British Columbia - Okanagan / Ilya Parkins (2017)

There have been no great changes to the curriculum in UBCO's Gender and Women's Studies program, following a curricular overhaul and the creation of a major in 2013. A name change - to account for Sexualities - will be in the works over the next year, along with some minor curricular housekeeping. The program has recently implemented an Associate Members Committee for the first time. Associate Member is an official appointment at UBC. There are currently five Associate Members housed in other programs, in addition to 1.5 core faculty in GWST. In 2016-17, the program implemented a monthly feminist research speaker series, which was very successful and will be continued for the foreseeable future. In 2017-18 GWST will be recruiting for a tenure-track position with a joint concentration in Science and Technology Studies and Sexualities, with the appointment expected to commence July 1, 2018.

University of Northern British Columbia/Jacqueline Holler (2017)

In 2016-17, our WMST/GNDR courses enrolled 146 students; we hold steady with about 10 undergraduate majors and 7 students in our Gender Studies MA program. Among other things, our web courses have been consistently full with waiting lists. A range of courses are offered at all year levels, as well as ancillary courses in English, First Nations Studies, and History. Summer programming includes the popular “Lesbians and Bisexual Lives”, and we’ll offer two new courses for the late summer/fall on girlhood and girls & women of the global south. Tenured faculty remains minimal; we are hopeful that UNBC’s academic planning process will lead to the hiring of at least one more tenure-track faculty.

University of Victoria / Annalee Lepp (2017)

The Gender Studies department underwent a successful Academic Program Review in Nov. 2016, which we hope will translate into further departmental resources. Enrollments are strong – 4.5% more capacity than past year, with 1229 students enrolled, 3 Honours, 70 Majors (+ 16 undeclared) and 42 Minors (April 2017). New

courses include The Zombie in Popular Culture; Indigenous Feminism; Indigeneity, Gender and Land; and Masculinities. There's some discussion of developing an MA program in Humanities on critical theory, gender and diversity – Gender Studies would take the lead on this. Our department sponsored and participated in many events (e.g., Ideafest's "Migrating People" panel; *Spacequerade* fundraiser for a trans femme scholarship; the Open Forum against Racism at UViv). In the staffing area, Annalee Lepp ends her 11 years as chair, to be replaced by Laura Parisi.

Vancouver Island University / Janis Ledwell-Hunt

8. BCCAT representative (Robert Adamoski)

Robert brought copies of the **BCCAT Update** newsletter (spring 2017) and encouraged us to subscribe if we don't already. He also reminded us of BCCAT's annual awards (for persons who've shown exemplary support for BCCAT) and to feel free to nominate anyone from our institution who seems deserving.

We briefly talked about the issues arising from an increase in international students; the repercussions for both foreign and local students when internationalization supports fall short – and they are falling short.

Robert and the attendees discussed a variety of BC curricular matters (curriculum.gov.bc.ca). He showed us the online **BC Curricular Comparison Guide**, which compares the new and old science/math curricula. We also looked at the Social Justice 12 page and had a brief discussion about whether the learning standards were strong enough re: critical analysis (methods & skills).

Attention then turned to the **new BC curricula for grades 10 to 12**. Something will be rolled out in July 2018 – possibly all three grades, possibly a gradual grade-by-grade introduction. Evidently the new curricula (especially the higher grades) will impact admissions to post-secondary, and an 18-month window will be needed to assess and advise re: such impacts.

The **new provincial numeracy exam** will be introduced in **January 2018**; the **new provincial literacy exam** will be introduced in **January 2019**. Both are stand-alone tests.

Robert mentioned BCCAT's research on **flexible pre-major** (report due fall 2017).

And finally, he told us about research into **expanding gender declaration options** for BC students. The report is come out shortly, with registrars slated to meet in June to discuss TransFocus Consulting's findings. The research looked into four issues: 1. Name (possibly three – legal, chosen, nickname); 2. Pronoun preference; 3. Gender declaration (several possibilities) and 4. Further consultation with Two-Spirit and Indigenous students. The goal is to develop consistent practices across BC institutions -- and to interface with StatsCan's systems.

9. Next meeting:

Location: UBC Okanagan (Ilya agreed to host & to chair, for one year only)

Date: Friday, May 11, 2018

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

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