

# WOMEN'S STUDIES ARTICULATION MEETING 2019

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL on ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFERS (BCCAT)

## MINUTES

10 May 2019, Simon Fraser University (Harbour Centre), Room 1500, 930 AM—330 PM

### ATTENDEES:

Norah Bowman (Okanagan College); Robynne Healey (Trinity Western University); **Jacqueline Holler (Chair, University of Northern British Columbia)**; **Sharon Josephson (SLP, Okanagan College)**; Helen Lansdowne (Camosun College); Annalee Lepp (University of Victoria); Janet Mayr (Selkirk College); Sally Mennill (Douglas College); Lindy Munk (College of New Caledonia); Kathleen Reed (VIU); Manisha Singh (Langara College); Ki Wight (Capilano University); Habiba Zaman (Simon Fraser University)

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*Light breakfast served, 9:30-10am; lunch served, 12:00—1:00*

**1. Welcome**

*10:00 AM. Call to order, territorial acknowledgment, and welcome from Jacqueline Holler, 2019 Chair*

*10:05 AM. Introductions*

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**MOVED (with amendments): Manisha Singh (Langara); SECONDED: Helen Lansdowne (CAMOSUN). CARRIED**

**3. Approval of Minutes: 2018 meeting (UBC-Okanagan)**

**MOVED (with corrections): Manisha Singh (Langara); SECONDED: Helen Lansdowne (CAMOSUN). CARRIED**

**4.0 Announcements**

*Habiba Zaman announced an International Workshop on Gender, Diversity, and Inclusion on 1 June 2019 at SFU. The event includes three speakers from China and speakers from WSGS at SFU. The event is free but registration is required.*

*There will be a Rohingya refugee roundtable at the upcoming Congress at UBC: 5 June 2019 from 130—300 PM.*

#### 4.1 Institutional Reports and Discussion

**Camosun College.** Helen Lansdowne reported that GSWS continues to have strong enrolment. First-year courses are usually full. No summer courses are being offered this year. There is only one faculty member teaching GSWS courses, but a number of gender-related courses are offered through the Departments of Social Sciences and humanities. GSWS is hoping to expand the number of crosslisted courses; there are many courses in other departments that are currently ancillary. Having international students in GSWS 204 (Women and Globalization) has provided tremendous opportunities for global discussions, benefitting Canadian students and creating a collaborative and encouraging learning environment. To mark IWD, a guest lecture was organized featuring Lisa Kahaleole Hall, UVic's new Program Director of Indigenous Studies. The lecture was based on research undertaken by Kahaleole Hall for her book *Making Relations in the House of Difference*.

**Capilano University.** Ki Wight reported on the offerings of five sections of WGST in fall 2018, Spring 2019, and Summer 2019. There has been great demand and there are waitlists across the institution, partly as a result of a dramatic influx of international students. Courses are rotated collegially in two-year cycles. Majors and minors are becoming a reality at Cap and the department has been encouraged to develop them. Upper-level courses are being developed on women and prisons, women and comics, and feminist killjoys. Kirsten McIlveen has brought the Walls to Bridges Prison program to Cap in collaboration with UFV. In fall 2019, she will be teaching the first for-credit course in human geography to 8 Cap students and 8 incarcerated students. The course LBST 401 ran for a second time in Spring under the title Queer Intersections: Histories, Identities, and Cultures. The intention is to re-write the Queer Intersections course as a 400-level WGST course next year. SFU raised a concern about the course prefix LBST, noting that SFU's Labour Studies courses also have the heading LBST, and that this may cause some confusion in articulation. Among other events, Cap had a very well-attended IWD event featuring a screening of three films by Marie Clements, Asinnajaq, and Jules Koostachin, followed by a panel discussion.

**Langara College.** Manisha Singh reported that 13 transfer credit sections were offered in the previous year. WMST has one full-time faculty and two part-time faculty, who are now regularized. All courses had good enrolments and long waitlists of international students. Langara also offered the WMST 1105 Lecture series, a non-credit and non-fee offering. WMST has concluded a program review, with the final report still pending. WMST has been working to ensure that all courses include indigenous perspectives and content on colonialism and decolonization. The growth of international student enrolment without accompanying academic and social support has been a concern for faculty. Social Justice 12 has had a positive impact on WMST classrooms.

**University of Northern BC.** Jacqueline Holler reported that UNBC is in the midst of a major restructuring that may have implications for staffing and curriculum. Ten courses were offered in the past year, with good enrolments. Under development for 2019—2020 are courses on Men and Masculinities and Queer Sexualities. The Gender Studies MA has 11 students in stream, with 3 set

to graduate in May 2019. Six have been admitted for fall 2019. Jacqueline reported on the activities of the Northern Feminist Institute for Research and Evaluation, which has been working toward a closer relationship with WMST/GNDR. Northern FIRE's 2019 symposium, *Gendered Realities across the Lifespan*, was highly successful. In planning is a conference on Responding to Sexual and Domestic Violence in Northern British Columbia, slated for fall 2019.

**Okanagan College.** Norah Bowman reported that enrolments are very strong in GSWS courses, in part as the result of high international-student enrolments at OC. International students are bringing welcome diversity to classes, but there have also been challenges for faculty dealing with many students who lack English knowledge. Two new courses have been developed: GSWS 206: Gender, Sexuality, and Religion; and GSWS 205-3 Fat Feminism. Norah asked about alternative assignments (for example, podcasts in place of academic essays), and how these might affect the transferability of second-year GSWS. There was discussion among the committee, with a broad consensus that courses are evaluated holistically and without a clear-cut requirement that essays be part of the assessment regime.

**Selkirk College.** Janet Mayr reported that WS courses have continued to have strong enrolments; indeed, they are consistently full, mainly due to higher enrolments of international students in all program areas at Selkirk. Selkirk has an Internationalization Strategic Plan (since 2017), but there are growing pains associated with internationalization, including workload stresses for faculty. Selkirk is also nearing finalization of its first Indigenization Plan. EC struck a task force on Governance Processes for Indigenizing Education. It is working to determine appropriate models and approval processes for indigenizing curricula. Aboriginal Services Liaison Jessica Morin is leading a SSHRC-funded project on Reconciliation through Community College Education, working with PIs from within the Nations. Finally, the Teaching and Learning Institute is once again offering Regional Indigenous Perspectives on Languages and Cultures, a course open not only to Selkirk's students and employees but to community members. Selkirk has just approved a new Strategic Plan that will carry it to 2024.

**Simon Fraser University.** Habib Zaman reported that the GSWS welcomed two faculty this year (.75 FTE and .25 FTE), cross-appointed in Urban Studies and First Nations Studies respectively; a new tenure-track hiring in Global Transgender Health has just been completed. Vaibhav Saria, who focusses on the hijra community, will commence their appointment on 1 July 2019. The GSWS Manager has been a phenomenal support to the program. Enrolments in the program have continued to grow, in contrast to those in many other Arts and Social Sciences disciplines; over ten years enrolments have increased by 98%. The graduate program currently has 9 doctoral and 11 MA students. The department has recently developed several new undergraduate courses: GSWS 315: Critical Disability Studies; GSWS 341: History of Women in Europe: Ideas and Debates; GSWS 414: Dude, Where's My Body? Biopolitics, Biotechnologies, and Bioethics. Helen Leung has also developed a new graduate course: Queer and Trans Theory. The university is transitioning from the old CODE system of online learning (centralized) to a new system, FLEX, in which online/blended courses will be managed by departments. This could be particularly helpful for smaller units. In addition, SFU is working on a campus-wide Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

initiative.

**Trinity Western University.** Robynne Healey reported that TWU's Gender Studies minor continues to be a small but active program. The Gender Studies Institute celebrated its tenth anniversary in fall 2018, and a number of events were held throughout the fall. GNDR/SOCI 105, Intro to Gender Studies, was offered for the first time in Spring 2019. Only one course is housed in Gender Studies, with the rest housed in other majors. Among other recent changes to the minor, a number of its ancillary courses have now been crosslisted, so students will have GNDR courses listed on their transcripts. Three new hires in other departments will help enhance GS offerings. Indigenization is an ongoing concern at TWU; some programs have already worked through their curricula to ensure representation of indigenous voices and ways of knowing.

**Vancouver Island University.** Kathleen Reed reported that VIU has a new president, Deborah Saucier. This was the first year with the updated name Studies in Women and Gender (SWAG). All courses have been taught by non-regular faculty this year. The seven courses offered included a very popular online offering, SWAG 330 (Women and Gender in Digital Spaces). Also extremely popular was the face-to-face course SWAG 103 (Care of Self: Feminism and Well-Being). At VIU, SWAG courses seem to attract fewer international students than those in other departments, and English fluency has not been an issue. The focus at VIU is on underprepared students of any origin, rather than international vs. domestic students. Indigenization and Reconciliation initiatives are underway in every faculty and are core tenets of the Academic Plan. Elders are full faculty members according to the collective agreement and are in residence in courses across the university. SWAG has two courses devoted to feminism and gender from an Indigenous perspective, while all other courses in the department incorporate indigenous voices and discuss colonialism and reconciliation.

**University of Victoria.** Annalee Lepp reported that the last year saw some staffing shortages because of faculty leaves; nonetheless, enrolments were strong. Long-time Administrative Assistant Helen Rezanowich is retiring on 30 May after 30 years of service, while Professor Jo-Anne Lee is retiring on 1 July after 25 years. New hires include Chase Joynt, a moving image artist and writer, joining the department on 1 July 2019. A hiring process is in place for a term position. New courses include GNDR 304, Imagining India from Empire to Bollywood; GNDR 201, Popular Culture and Social Media; GNDR 210, The Zombie in Popular Culture; GNDR 308, Indigeneity, Gender, and Land; GNDR 309, Masculinities; and GNDR 344, Queer Film. Annalee noted one issue with transfer credit; while students can take "topics" courses more than once, the system doesn't always recognize them as different courses. The department is piloting an online version of GNDR 100, with 75 students on the waitlist. Numerous events were held during the past year. The student-run Equity and Outreach Committee organized several events; the department held open houses; the Lansdowne lectures were delivered by Skaya Siku (Academica Sinica, Taiwan) and Yi-Chun Tricia Lin (Southern Connecticut State University); a Stories of Racism and Resistance event was organized by students in GNDR 499; and finally, GNDR 335 launched a website, Feminism without Borders <https://www.feminismwithoutborders.info>

**5. BCCAT Business**

**5.1. SLP report (Sharon Josephson).** Sharon was introduced to and welcomed by the committee. She discussed her role and offered assistance wherever she can help.

**5.2 Pending articulation requests.** There were no outstanding requests.

**5.3 2019 BCCAT Spring Update (for information).** The report was presented.

**6. Business Arising**

**6.1 Promotional material/website (J. Holler)**

There was discussion of whether we want to continue to pursue this initiative. It was determined that we would put the promotional materials on hold for the time being.

**5.2 Transfer issues with crosslisted courses (Okanagan, BCCAT)**

There are some issues that require discussion, but we need further information. We determined to follow up with Ann McKinnon for discussion next year.

**7. New Business**

**6.0 location and date of next meeting.**

The committee elected to meet again on 8 May 2020.

**6.1 selection of host, secretary, and chair for 2019-2020.**

Capilano will host, and Jacqueline Holler will once again serve as chair.

**8. Adjournment**