Appendix B & C

January 30, 1991

JUDITH NEWTON, Chair
Designate Emphasis in Feminist Theory & Research

SUBJECT: Revisions to the Proposal for a Designated Emphasis in Feminist Theory & Research

REF: Letter and revised proposal 01/25/91, Newton to Curry

Thank you for providing a revised version of the proposal for a Designated Emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research. The modifications and clarifications appear to be appropriate, for the most part. A few cosmetic changes are noted on the attached copy of the document.

It appears that two additional, small modifications should be made to page 4 of the proposal, regarding the Executive Committee:

1. The second paragraph under the heading "2. By-Laws" has been modified to indicate that the Feminist Theory and Research Faculty Group is responsible for electing the members of the Executive Committee. However, in the first paragraph, the proposal still indicates that the Executive Committee is chosen by the Chair of the Executive Committee. You may want to adjust the first paragraph.

2. Vito Polito’s letter of June 27, 1990 provides an additional suggestion: "for the executive committee...to be rotated every two or three years to provide a diversity of perspectives for the program". My understanding was that this suggestion by the Program Review Committee was to be incorporated into your By-Laws.

In regard to your question about the procedure for inviting other departments to join your designated emphasis, we have found that the most expedient process is: (1) the interested department talks to the group faculty about the designated emphasis, (2) the interested department writes a letter to the chair of the designated emphasis asking to be included as part of the group, (3) the chair of the designated emphasis writes a letter to either the Graduate Council or myself, requesting that the department be added to the group and including a copy of the department’s letter. The chair’s letter should provide a brief justification as to why the department should be added and should indicate whether or not changes to the program’s requirements will be necessary. The Graduate Council will review the proposed addition and either approve it or provide feedback to the group.

Please give me a call (2-0650) if you have any additional questions.

DONALD L. CURRY
Associate Dean

DLC/mjd

cc: L. Sunell
January 11, 1991

JUDITH NEWTON, Director
Women's Studies

SUBJECT: Designated Emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research

REF: Letter 08/27/90, Newton to Program Review Committee
     Letter 06/27/90, Polito to Newton
     Proposal 04/12/90

At its meeting on November 28, 1990, the Graduate Council unanimously approved the proposal for a Designated Emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research. The Council was impressed with the energy and dedication put into this proposal and feels the new Designated Emphasis will be a valuable addition to the UC Davis campus.

The Council wants to remind you that an updated version of the proposal, incorporating the changes suggested by the Program Review Committee (PRC) and agreed to at the meeting on November 21, 1990, should be submitted to the Council as soon as possible. The changes will make your proposal consistent with other designated emphases.

DAVID BRODY, Chair
Graduate Council

DB/mjd

cc: D. Curry
    M. Greenwood
    L. Sunell
PROPOSAL FOR A DESIGNATED EMPHASIS
IN FEMINIST THEORY AND RESEARCH
1-25-91

I. Description of the Designated Emphasis

According to the guidelines established by the UCD Graduate Council, a designated emphasis must provide a special form of academic training in relation to a new method of inquiry or a new area of investigation, within the realm of two or more existing doctoral programs. The curriculum of the designated emphasis is to be offered by a faculty organized in the manner of a graduate group and governed by a set of bylaws which specify the qualifications and selection process for determining membership. The designated emphasis, finally, is to be awarded only in conjunction with the Ph.D. and is to be signified by the degree designation, "Ph.D. in X with Emphasis in Y.

1. Feminist Theory and Research

In introducing gender as a central category of analysis, feminist research poses sets of questions—about the separation of the domestic and the public world, the relation of language and institutions, the nature of social power and historical agency— which are changing many of the ways in which traditional disciplines define their fields of inquiry and their categories.

Although feminist scholarship takes place within disciplines and has impact upon them, it tends by nature to be interdisciplinary and is often cited as a model of innovative and self-reflexive, interdisciplinary work. Since gender systems permeate cultures and operate on many different levels, feminist scholars have been impelled to work across disciplines, to borrow methodologies from one another and to combine methodologies in new and fruitful ways. Feminist scholars, indeed, laid the groundwork for many of the current developments in non-feminist interdisciplinary work such as the "new historicism, the "new history" and the "new ethnography."

In their focus of inquiry and in their interdisciplinary practice, feminist theory and research are two of the most exciting and powerful forces in current academic research and intellectual life. Since research in the humanities and social sciences is increasingly engaged with gender issues, graduate students who train in feminist theory and research are improving the viability of their scholarship and finding themselves more attractive as candidates for employment.
2. Feminist Theory and Research at UCD

After a series of fortuitous hires in individual departments, the Women's Studies Program at UCD has consolidated some of its prior strengths and is in reach of becoming a program with national distinction in the study of women and gender. The program as a whole now has 44 teaching faculty several with national and international reputation, representing a total of 19 different departments.

Although we are strong in individual departments, there is strong commitment here to the production of cross disciplinary work as well. What would, in fact, differentiate a designated emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research from a concentration in gender studies within a single discipline is precisely the multi-disciplinary nature of the Emphasis. The two core courses in Feminist Theory and Research, for example, will be team taught, when possible, and cross disciplinary so as to maximize students' understanding of the integrative nature of feminist theory and research and so as to train students in moving across disciplinary boundaries in their own work. When at all possible, faculty from all four disciplines will be involved in teaching core courses each year. As the Emphasis develops and other programs join in, it will be our goal to ensure that faculty from the humanities and social sciences are evenly represented in teaching the core curriculum.

3. Description of the Proposal

We wish to propose that Feminist Theory and Research be made a designated emphasis in the PhD programs offered by Anthropology, English, History and Sociology and that other departments be added to the designated emphasis list as they become ready.

II. Academic Nature of the Designated Emphasis

1. Requirements for Admission to the Emphasis

Ph.D. candidates in participating departments who receive a B+ or better in the first course of a two-course sequence in Feminist Theory and Research could declare a designated emphasis with the approval of the Executive Committee.

2. Time Required for Designated Emphasis

Since candidates are only required to take four courses, the Designated Emphasis would not significantly add to the time already required for completing a Ph.D.

3. Appointment of Faculty to the Qualifying Examination and Dissertation Committees
a. One member of the candidate's dissertation committee should be a member of the Feminist Theory and Research Faculty Group. This member would be recommended by the student's graduate advisor in consultation with the student and with the relevant committee.

b. One member of the Feminist Theory and Research Faculty Group should sit on the committee responsible for the student's qualifying examinations. This member would also be recommended by the student's graduate advisor in consultation with the student and with the relevant committee.

4. Curriculum

a. Minimum course work for the designated emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research would consist of four courses. The first two of these, Contemporary Issues in Feminist Theory and Problems in Feminist Research, would be offered annually as graduate courses in Women's Studies and would be taken by all students. They would form a sequence and would normally be taken in consecutive quarters. The first course would examine current issues in feminist theory from a cross disciplinary perspective. Such issues at the present moment might include the viability of the category "women," the usefulness of the division between "public and private," current debates over theorizing human identity, historical agency, and "history" itself, the relation between ideologies of class, gender, race and ethnicity, the construction of sexuality and the body, debates over gender and epistemology. The second course would involve a cross disciplinary examination of some area of investigation, such as, for example, gender systems in two different cultures.

b. The two remaining courses would be chosen from a list approved by the Executive Committee. One of these courses should be from the student's home department and the other from a discipline outside the home departments. Possible courses would include History 273 A-B, Research Seminar in the Comparative History of Women and the Family; History 211-02, Gender and Sexuality: Historical Debates and Methods; Sociology 234, Gender Family, and Society; and Topics in Gender and Literary Study, a graduate course which we understand will be instituted in the English Department.

c. The qualifying examination should include gender as a category of analysis.

d. The dissertation topic should also incorporate gender as a central category of analysis.

e. The degree awarded to a candidate who successfully completed both the departmental requirements and the requirements for the
designated emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research would be the Ph.D. in the departmental discipline "with a designated emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research."

III. Administrative Matters

1. Roster of Participating Faculty
The Executive Committee shall initially consist of the following members of the Women's Studies Program and of departments which have approved the Designated Emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research: Judith Newton (Chair); Judith Stacey (Women's Studies); Carol Joffee (Women's Studies); Lata Mani (Women's Studies); Susan Mann (History); Margit Stange (English); Suad Joseph (Anthropology).

2. By-Laws
The Executive Committee for Feminist Theory and Research will consist of faculty members chosen by the Chair of the Executive Committee in consultation with the Feminist Theory and Research Faculty Group. The committee should include at least two faculty from Women's Studies and one from three different participating disciplines. The Executive Committee shall establish curriculum, set requirements for admission and for qualifying examinations and dissertations, and nominate committee members to serve on qualifying examination and dissertations committees. The Committee shall also assign a member of the faculty to serve as major professor and adviser for each student within the designated emphasis. The Chair of the Committee for the Graduate Emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research and the Chairs of the affiliated Ph.D. programs shall meet regularly to discuss administrative, instructional and research resource needs.

The Feminist Theory and Research Faculty Group would primarily be a consulting body. This committee could meet at least once each academic year to advise the chair and Executive Committee and to elect members of the Executive Committee. Teaching courses designated by the Executive Committee for inclusion in the program would constitute eligibility for membership in the Faculty Group.

The Chair of the Executive Committee would preside over all aspects of the Feminist Theory and Research program and would be responsible for their day to day administration. She would be specifically responsible among other matters for approving expenses and all other budgetary decisions; for convening and presiding over meetings of the Executive and Faculty Committees; for advising graduate students or appointing graduate advisers for this purpose; for designating instructors for the Feminist Theory and Research core courses and (in consultation with these instructors and the Executive Committee) for designing and approving the content of these courses; and for all other
administrative decisions normally pertaining to the office of a program Chair. The Chair would be nominated by the Executive Committee and appointed by the Dean of the Graduate Division.

Financial Assistance.

3. The Feminist Theory and Research Executive Committee should be authorized, like other graduate groups, to recommend candidates for fellowships directly to the Graduate Division. Research assistantships should also be among the means of financial assistance seriously explored.