ACADEMIC WOMEN'S CAUCUS ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2019

Ana Maria Peredo, Chair, AWC July 2019

Chair Transition: On July 1, 2017, the Chair of the AWC passed from Jin Sun (July 2015-June 2017) to Ana Maria Peredo (July 2017-June 20119).

As part of the transition, I met with Jin-Sun and previous AWC Chairs: Victoria Wyatt, Lynne Marks, Margo Matwychuk and Janni Aragon. Victoria Wyatt provided me with extra technical support for managing the Academic community online. I am grateful to all these women for their advice and support throughout my tenure as an AWC Chair.

Equity and Diversity Administrative Re-structuration:

In the summer 2017, I called for a steering committee and presented a number of initiatives for the coming two years based on the knowledge gained from previous chairs. We were at crucial point, given the restructuration on reporting equity and diversity issues. There were also some concerns among previous chairs that the AWC funding would disappear. In consultation with the steering committee I wrote a letter to the Vice President and Provost and pressed for a meeting. It was a tense meeting. On behalf of AWC I expressed our concerns for the restructuration. However, by the end it was clear that the VPAC office would continue to support AWC. I was assured that equity issues are high in the Provost's agenda and that Dr. Kamilla Milligan is playing the role that the Provost Advisor on Equity Issues provided.

AWC Receptions:

The 2017 Annual AWC Wine and Cheese was held on October 18, 2017 in the Fireside Lounge in the University Club. We had 58 registering and 53 members from most of faculties around campus attending. The Vice-President Academic and Provost, Valerie Kuehne attended and provided an historical overview of AWC. It was an opportunity to thank Jin- Sun and Grace Wong- Sneddon for their work on behalf of AWC. We have a very collegial afternoon and received positive feedback.

The 2018 Annual AEC Wine and Cheese was held on November 24th. We had AWC members 47 registered and 42 attending. Seven were new faculty members. Thank you to our AWC members who brought their new colleagues. It was an opportunity to welcome to new colleagues and say good-bye to the ones leaving UVic.

On March 29 2019, AWC hosted a reception for the steering committee and others engaged with the visit of Frances Henry from York University in honour of our speaker. We also welcomed the Chair of Transgender Studies to the reception.

Workshops and Lectures:

On February 5, 2019, AWC organized a lecture by Dr. Jessica Gordon Nembhard, an African American economic

historian, author of Collective Courage and activist, who lectured on “The role of African American women on social movements” including the co-operative movement and the Black movement. The UVIC Co-operative provided funding and a Community-based economies grant. The event attracted African students and African members of the greater community as well as others from the University and wider area.

On November 21, 2017, AWC co-organized a lecture “White Fragility” with Robin DiAngelo. This event was co-organized by members of the OFAR coalition and was attended by around 300 people. Thanks to Jin-Sun for making arrangements for Robin to come to UVic and to Audrey Yap chair of MIWIN and Anita Girvan of Environmental Studies for hosting pre- lecture workshops. Tickets to the event sold out.

On September 28th, we held a reception for the visit of two members from the Seikasu Club. This is a group of women that received the Alternative Nobel Prize for their work in their neighbourhoods in Tokyo It is a grassroots organization that work on food sovereignty, elder and childcare, political lobby among other things. It was a nice opportunity to connect with younger scholars working on these themes and or geographical area.

On March 28, 2019 AWC organized a panel on “Life In The Pre-Tenure Lane: Surviving, Even Thriving.” The event

was well attended by younger AWC scholars and we had a good deal of positive feedback. Thanks to Annalee Lepp, Reeta Tremblay, Lynne Marks & Frances Henry from York U. and Carolyn Butler- Palmer for participating.

March 29, 2019, we hosted a lecture by Frances Henry, one of the authors of *The Equity Myth*. Frances is one of Canada's leading experts on the study of racism and anti-racism. She presented "Experiencing The University Through Different Lens: Race, Racialization And Equity". Her presentation was well received, and many found she reflected their living experiences. It generated a great deal of ongoing discussion around equity policies.

University Committee Representation:

I represented the AWC on the Diversity and Equity Advisory Committee, Provost's Equity Award Committee. In OFAR, I served as a co-chair in the fall of 2017. I also served on the planning committee for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (RAVAW).

I represented the AWC in a meeting on Nov 2017 of a student groups concerning racial issues on campus. On June 17 2019, I was engaged with the search position for the Executive Director for the Office of Equity and Diversity Issues on campus and collectively with other members of the committee and AWC members who were able to attend the meeting with the candidates. We wrote a feedback report to the search committee.

Purple Prose and AWC Listserv:

I published 3 Purple Proses. I am grateful to the steering committee for their contributions. The AWC Listserv has been a good medium to connect with our members and engage with new members

Minority and Indigenous Women Instructors' Network (MIWIN):

In many of the initiatives I have worked closely with the Audrey Yap, co-chair of MIWIN**.** AWC hosted and sponsored a tea reception for MIWIN members on 2018. I offered in 2019 to sponsor a lunch but the timing didn't work as MIWIN was looking into change of leadership. I am glad that Audrey Yap continues as a co-chair with Christine Sy. The relationship between the AWC and MIWIN is very valuable, as Indigenous and minority women face distinctive challenges and bring important perspectives at UVic.

Liaison with UVic Faculty Association:

As AWC chair I served on the Faculty Association consultation subcommittee on equity issues as the FA was preparing for bargaining the next collective agreement. I appreciate the care that the FA association took on consulting with different constituencies, including AWC and MIWIN, and working on the equity and diversity proposals.

Governance:

During 2017-19 we held at least one meeting per term with

the steering committee. Consultation processes with the steering committee were in place for the election of the new chair. In 2019 we did not require elections as we had a single candidate.

Supervision of AWC Student:

During 2017-2019, I worked with the following graduate students: Taiwo Afolabi, Karen Kalinka, Kim Kendall. All of them at different times were helpful with the formatting of the *Purple Prose.* Also, during 2018-2019 as part of OFAR we collectively supported the students organizing against racism.