

San Diego State College
San Diego, California 92115

Vice President for Administration

December 11, 1970

Dr. Roberta Salper
Chairwoman
Women's Studies Board
San Diego State College

Dear Dr. Salper:

First, let me apologize for not getting to you, before the meeting last night, my answer to your letter of December 7. I tried to telephone you during the day but was unable to reach you.

In consideration of the action of your Board in disassociating itself from the Women's Committee, plus the action of Dean Carrier in specifically omitting the Center from control of the advisory group which he has created, I feel it is an excellent time for each contingent "to do its own thing" in support of the women of San Diego State and the community. Certainly, your board has its own goals and tactics well in mind. I believe Carol and the women associated with her also have specific plans. Would it be possible for each of you to concentrate on your own sphere of interest, to be informed about the plans of the other, and yet to refrain from divisive attempts to control or alter the plans or programs of the other group?

Just as Carol's contingent has representation on your board which will insure their understanding what you are doing, it would seem to me that it would be well for you to have representation when the Center Board is formed, so that some mutual trust can be developed, wasteful overlapping eliminated, and--hopefully--the two boards can gradually come to accommodation and unity. Hopefully, such a détente is already developing and will serve to eliminate the unfortunate and time-consuming dissension between the two groups.

One final note--in several connections, including the story in Goodbye To All That, the words "Women's Studies Program" is used as evidence that I had consciously made a decision last summer that Women's Studies would control the Center. However, as I explained to you and the other three women in our conference some weeks ago, I was using "program" in its

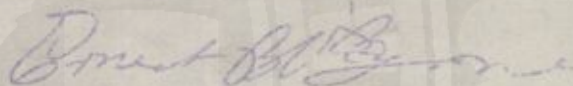
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lower-case generic term to mean not only the academic component but the Center component as well. If these two elements are considered as one, I can think of no other word that seems to fit as well as "program" with a small "p" to describe the entire effort. Now, however, the whole question of what I meant or didn't mean is moot, and perhaps we can all move ahead constructively looking solely to the future instead of dwelling on past controversies.

By the way, please inform Sherry Smith that I have some information from our Washington Office about Child Care Centers. I would be happy to give it to her.

Sincerely,



Ernest B. O'Byrne

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