

San Diego State College

San Diego, California 92115

Women's Studies Program
College of Arts and Letters

July 13, 1970

Dear Friend(s):

The first complete Women's Studies Program to be developed in the United States will be operating in the Fall of 1970 at San Diego State College. The S.D.S.C. Women's Studies Program, the academic component of the seven-component Proposal for a Center for Women's Studies, is an attempt to repair the damage done to women by the omissions and distortions of traditional education.

Last October student members of S.D.S.C. Women's Liberation organized the Ad Hoc Committee for Women's Studies, a committee composed of women faculty, women students, and community women. We spent the Fall semester organizing grass-roots support for Women's Studies and creating an informal Spring program of five already existing courses with contents changed to emphasize the role, status, identity, and potential of women. In January we announced our Spring program with a brochure at Registration, obtained administrative endorsement of the Program, and formally presented the Proposal for a Center for Women (now called Center for Women's Studies) to a gathering of key administrators, with Women's Liberation and the Ad Hoc Committee for Women's Studies. We received their support and were advised to go through the series of committees necessary for implementation of the academic program within the institution. From January to May was spent first designing structure and curriculum and then guiding the proposal through the committees. A core group of 15 women made preliminary visits with individuals on the committees to explain our program and clear up common misconceptions caused by ignorance and male chauvinism before making formal presentations before the proper bodies. In the

process we passed through two sub-committees of the College of Arts and Letters, a full-faculty assembly of the College of Arts and Letters, two university-wide committees, and finally, on May 22nd, the Faculty Senate.

We anticipate a fully-staffed eleven course program with its own faculty, administration, and budget to be operating in the Fall. However, no operational commitments (other than 1.5 faculty positions and one full-time Distinguished Visiting Professor) have been obtained -- due both to the usual inflexibility of college budgets towards new programs, and to the recent educational crisis in California caused by the Legislative cutbacks for Higher Education.

We are basically excited and optimistic about the Program but we are still struggling for survival. All kinds of support will be needed in order to implement the fine program we envision. One major task now is to seek supplementary funding for the Studies Program from foundations, federal grants, and private donors. In addition, we should be seeking money for the development of the other components of the Center (particularly the Publications component and the Research component).

We feel we have the potential in San Diego to develop a major center of study, services, and research for women, and we are determined to do this. Our excitement and determination is strengthened by the realization that our work will greatly facilitate the many problem-solving efforts of the nationwide women's movement. We, as women, have too long suffered from society's discrimination and neglect. Now is the time for our talents and resources to be maximized in order to create new possibilities.

Any assistance with information, advice, or support will be truly appreciated.

Peace and Liberation,
Carol Rowell, Coordinator,

Carol Rowell

Women's Studies Program
Temporary phone #714-286-5431

P.S. All work at this stage is voluntary,
please be patient about correspondence.