

November 19, 1970

Statement from the Center for Women's Studies Development Coordinator to the Academic Board:

Let me clarify what my relationship<sup>is</sup> to this Ad Hoc Committee. Our whole program was conceived in detail and developed over a period of many months and finally funded after many, many hassles on the basis of a proposal which specifies a seven component Center for Women's Studies, one of which is the Academic Component. Following a recommendation of the Women's Studies Committee, I was hired by the College (specifically the SDSC Foundation) to be the Coordinator of the Center and to develop the components. It is natural for a component that has already been developed, such as the Women's Studies Program, to consider itself to be the most important part of the whole thing and thus forget the needs of community tasks related to Recruitment, off-campus Tutorial, Research, Publications, Counseling, etc., all the non-middle class needs that the academic component by itself cannot satisfy. It is my job, the job for which I was hired, to see to it that those needs are met as soon as possible and to procure whatever financing is necessary to do it without compromising any of our philosophical principles. There are many precedents which make this possible.

Now, the question of responsibility. Clearly, one is responsible in many ways to the people one works with - in any capacity. This is the kind of informal responsibility that makes healthy, congenial and effective work to be possible, and that in turn, is possible only within a healthy, congenial and effective working team. This is the kind of a team I would like to work with, and in which each person feels responsible to the rest. As to formal, or official, responsibility, however, the picture is quite different. There is neither legal nor moral basis upon which a group of persons can declare someone responsible to them. In other words, what I am saying is that in my capacity as Coordinator of the Center for Women's Studies I am neither legally, officially, or morally responsible to the Board of the Academic Component or to any committee it might set up - just because they would like me to be and any vote to that effect has no validity.

On the other hand, as other components come into being a Board of the Center will be formed that will naturally become the body from which I will very willingly receive policy guidelines and to which I will be responsible to for carrying out these guidelines. (Hopefully no confusion will arise here between policy decisions and administrative prerogative). The more help I get with developing these other components and projects, the sooner this Board will come into being.

Sincerely,  
*Carol Rowell*  
Carol Rowell  
Development Coordinator  
Center for Women's Studies

