

San Diego State College
San Diego, California 92115

November 30, 1970

To: Carol Rowell, Development Coordinator - Center for Women's Studies
Dr. Ernest O'Byrne, Vice President, Administration

The original proposal for the Women's Studies Program and the Center for Women (later called the Center for Women's Studies) was made by the Ad Hoc Committee for Women's Studies (later called the Women's Studies Committee) in January, 1970. At that time the Women's Studies Committee choose to concentrate its efforts in developing a Women's Studies Program at San Diego State College which would then serve to legitimize and generate funding for the Center for Women's Studies. The collective efforts of the Women's Studies Committee during the Spring Semester, 1970 (February through May) resulted in the approval of the Women's Studies Program by the San Diego State College Faculty Senate on May 22, 1970.

In July, 1970 the Women's Studies Committee, on the strength of the newly approved Women's Studies Program, submitted to the San Diego State College Foundation a request for funds to aid the Women's Studies Program in areas that had not received California State funds and to facilitate developing the Center for Women's Studies.

A memorandum (dated August 11, 1970) from Ernest E. O'Byrne, Vice President for Administration, to William L. Erickson, Director, San Diego State College Foundation, concerning the funding for the Women's Studies Program, clarifies the relationship between Women's Studies and the Center for Women's Studies, and therefore, the basis upon which the Foundation allocated funds to the Women's Studies Program.

It is the understanding of the San Diego State College Foundation that our Program includes both Women's Studies and the Center for Women's Studies; it is further their intention that the \$12,000 which they allocated would be to "cover all positions and may include salary, operating expenses and supplies, equipment, travel and communications as well as staff and fringe benefits. . . (and that in August, 1971) a new agreement as to total funding requirements will be reached with the leaders of the Women's Studies Program." (Emphasis ours).

The women who have been elected to the Women's Studies Board (the body which superceded the Women's Studies Committee as of November 5, 1970) constitute, in this context, "the leaders of the Women's Studies Program."

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It is, therefore, the understanding of this Board that decisions concerning the duties and responsibilities of the Development Coordinator of the Center for Women's Studies, which were unanimously approved by the Women's Studies Committee (one member absent) at its October 7, 1970 meeting and reaffirmed by the women in the Women's Studies Program at an October 29, 1970 meeting by unanimous vote (with three abstentions) are still binding. Those decisions concerning the duties and responsibilities of the Development Coordinator are as follows:

"The Ad Hoc Committee will generate and stimulate proposals for projects that can expose and address the needs of women not necessarily students at San Diego State College. It will be the body to which a Development Co-ordinator for the development of the proposed Center for Women's Studies is directly responsible. The Development Co-ordinator's responsibilities are to explore and report back to the Ad Hoc Committee what funding is possibly available and with what conditions attached; also what projects and/or components groups of women in the community and/or San Diego State College are interested in having and in working to build. The Ad Hoc Committee has responsibility for deciding what funding sources should be further pursued by the Development Co-ordinator. As groups working on special projects and/or components for the proposed Center for Women's Studies come into being, they will evolve their own internal structures and determine what form of co-ordination and responsibilities they want to share. No project group will be required to affiliate with the proposed Center for Women's Studies in order to use their services."

On November 4, 1970, Dean Warren Carrier and Dr. Ernest O'Byrne spoke separately to the Women's Studies Committee. After their departure Carol Rowell stated 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." (Recorded in a Statement from Carol Rowell to the Women's Studies Board dated November 19, 1970).

From the inception of efforts to create Women's Studies to the present Women's Studies Program Board, there has been continually verbalized agreement that an essential feature of Women's Studies would be student, faculty and staff involvement in the development of all aspects of this program. Such involvement requires mutual responsibility.

The Development Coordinator's (Carol Rowell's) statement which unilaterally repudiates responsibility to the Women's Studies Board puts the nature and growth of a Center for Women's Studies beyond the reach of this body or any other body of women to shape and design. To have the control in the hands of one person who will not recognize responsibility to the collective will of those elected to represent the women in

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the Women's Studies Program is entirely contrary to the spirit of the Women's Movement, which is everywhere struggling against this kind of management of people's lives.

This issue was debated for several hours at the November 19, 1970, meeting of the Women's Studies Board with all members present, and a large majority passed the following two resolutions:

The Women's Studies Board reaffirms its understanding that it has been invested with control of the Center for Women's Studies and San Diego State College Foundation funds.]

If the Development Coordinator wishes to be responsible to the Women's Studies Board then we will maintain the present Coordinator. If she chooses not to be responsible to this Board we shall select a Development Coordinator who will be responsible.

Carol Rowell declined to make her answer known at that time. On November 24, 1970 she communicated to the Board Chairwoman, Roberta Salper, that she stood by her original position. Regretfully then, the Board must ask for her resignation as Development Coordinator and request that the funds for the remainder of her salary be returned to the Women's Studies Board. We request a written answer by December 3, 1970, in time for the Board meeting.

Respectfully,

Women's Studies Board

- Carin Howard
 - Barbara Kessel
 - Roberta Salper
 - Sherry Smith
- WVC
WVC
USF

cc: Warren P. Carrier, Dean
College of Arts and Letters

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POINTS OF CONTENTION
REGARDING

THE PROPOSED CENTER FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES
AND THE FOCUS OF RESPONSIBILITY OF THE
DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

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Item 1. History of the Proposed Center for Women's Studies

The original plan for the Center for Women (later called the Center for Women's Studies) was proposed by the ad hoc committee for Women's Studies (later called the Women's Studies Committee). Seven components were specified in this original proposal. The Women's Studies Committee later decided (by vote) that the proposed Center for Women's Studies should have no predetermined components, but that as projects arose through organizing community and student women and from already established organizations of women (e.g., Women's Union, Welfare Rights, etc.) they could seek the assistance of the Ad Hoc Committee for the proposed Center for Women's Studies for funding. This committee was proposed by the Women's Studies Committee to be formed at the advent of the Women's Studies Board and be composed of members of that board. This proposed Ad Hoc Committee was then ratified by the members of the Women's Studies classes present at the second orientation meeting this Fall.

It was further established that these projects could become components of the proposed Center for Women's Studies if they so chose, and they could set up their own internal governing boards and also decide whether or not and what form of coordination they desired in conjunction with other established components.

Item 2. The Development Coordinator's Position

The Women's Studies Committee decided that Carol Rowell should be hired (with the use of SDSC Foundation grant funds) to be the Coordinator of the Center for Women's Studies. Carol was in fact to be responsible to that committee which hired her. The Committee later voted to change Carol's position title to that of Development Coordinator in that the Center for Women's Studies did not in fact exist but was only proposed and also because it had been decided by vote that the components of the Center for Women's Studies would have the right to decide on whether or not they wanted a coordinator and who they wanted. Therefore, Carol's position as Development Coordinator is only a one-year appointment (to run from 8/1970 to 8/1971), with the possibility that it could be extended at the discretion of the components that arose and affiliated with the Center for Women's Studies (assuming funds are available for that purpose).

Item 3. The Foundation Grant

The Women's Studies Committee submitted to the San Diego State College Foundation a request for funds to facilitate setting up the proposed Center for Women's Studies and to aid the Women's Studies Program in areas that it did not receive State Funds, e.g., secretarial help. The Committee was asked to itemize by priority its most needed

requests, which the Committee did with the following top three priorities: Coordinator at a salary of \$12,200 per year (or half-time at \$6,100); a 1/4-time Department Chairwoman at \$2500*; and a secretary at \$6,000 per year (or half-time at \$3,000). Originally, we had submitted a budget requesting around \$200,000 for the Center for Women's Studies, but this being unrealistic in terms of the grants given by the SDSC Foundation, we had to cull out the "most important" needs.

The Foundation then decided, however, to allocate \$12,000 to the Women's Studies Program--not on a line-item basis, but in a lump sum, with control of the funds in the hands of the Women's Studies Committee to allocate by items as they determine and with the flexibility to at any time change those allocations. For administrative purposes, since the Foundation (as all bureaucracies) needs an identifiable person whose name shall be listed as "project director", Carol Rowell's name was put down on paper. It should be still understood, however, that the control of those funds lies with the Women's Studies Committee, not Carol Rowell as an individual.

Selected as Co-ordinator for the Center

The funds were allocated because the component of a proposed Center was viable

It should also be noted and remembered that the strength of our request for funds from the SDSC Foundation was directly associated with the existence of the Women's Studies Program, not the proposed Center.

Item 4. The Women's Studies Committee

It has always been understood that when the Women's Studies Board was established, the Women's Studies Committee would dissolve and its powers and responsibilities would be transferred to the Women's Studies Board, including control of Foundation funds and control of the positions created by the Women's Studies Committee, including Chairwoman of the Program, Office Staff, and the Development Coordinator.

without the Center idea, the funding would have been no more than a wish.

Item 5. The Democratic Process

At its inception and until the beginning of the Fall 1970 Semester, the Women's Studies Committee did not make its decisions democratically. Rather, decisions seemed to be made by what might loosely be called "consensus". However, at a meeting early in the Fall the Women's Studies Committee unanimously voted to follow democratic procedures (i.e., to vote and go by majority rule) on all decisions.

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As a result, the foregoing decisions have been made, not always to the liking of some committee members.

It should be noted that part of the expected results of using a democratic process is that as committees change in membership, decisions may change accordingly. It was, therefore, the legal right of the Women's Studies Committee to change the structure of the proposed Center for Women's Studies, to change the position of Coordinator to Development Coordinator, and to decide to make her responsible to the Ad Hoc Committee for the Center for Women's Studies.

Legal right

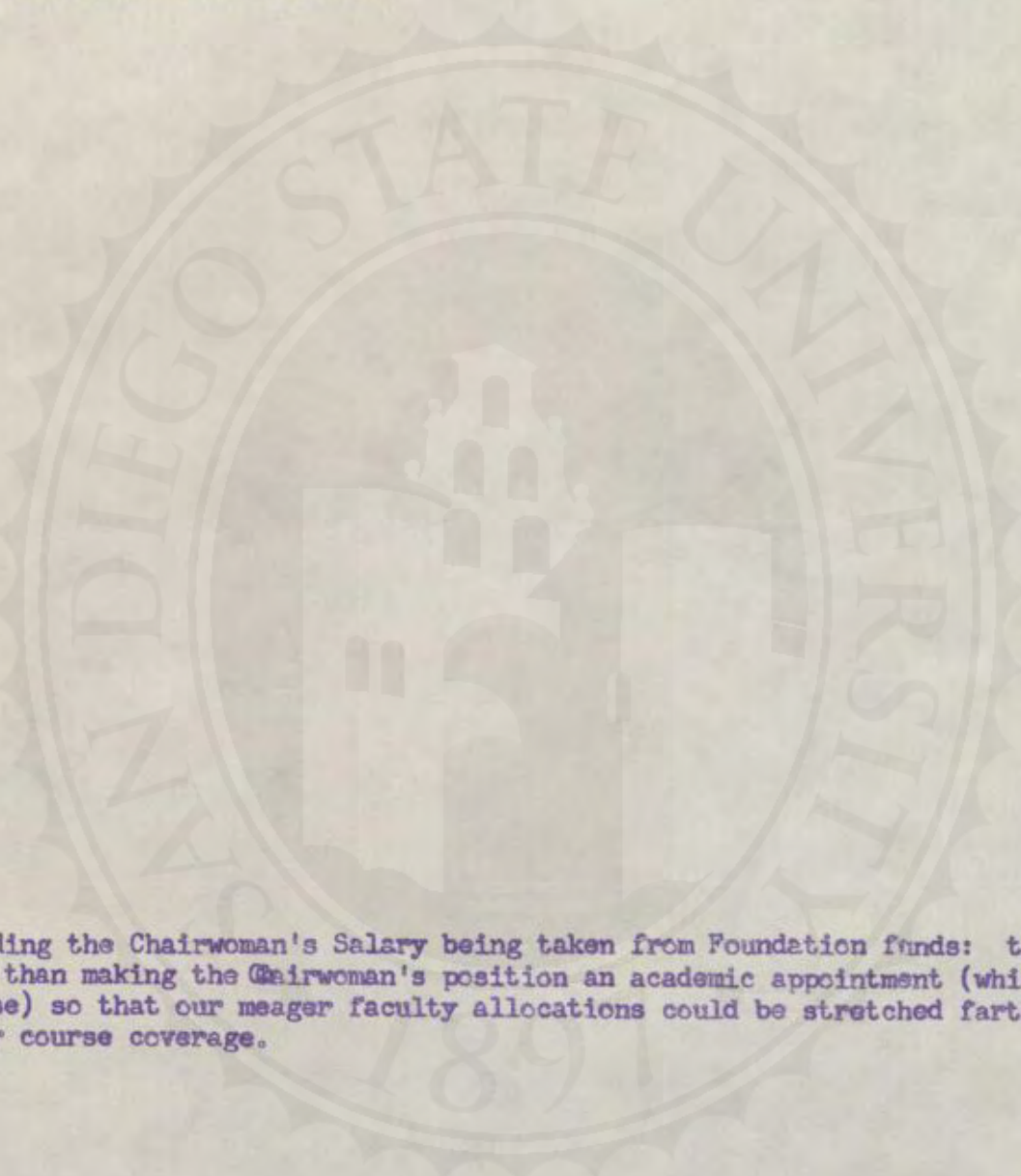
It is now the legal right of the Women's Studies Board to accept, change, or completely reverse the previous decisions of the Women's Studies Committee. This is usually accomplished by bring a matter before the board, having it then referred to

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the appropriate committee for exhaustive consideration, and then bring back to the Board the recommendations of the Committee.

That is the democratic process.



*Regarding the Chairwoman's Salary being taken from Foundation funds: this was decided rather than making the Chairwoman's position an academic appointment (which is usually the case) so that our meager faculty allocations could be stretched farther for greater course coverage.