

San Diego State College

San Diego, California 92115

December 7, 1970

To: The Faculty Advisory Committee, Women's Studies Program
From: Carol Rowell, Coordinator, Center for Women's Studies

Dear Committee members,

I hope that this note will be helpful in dis-spelling some of the confusion that seems to surround the relationship between the Center for Women's Studies and the Women's Studies Program.

In response to a proposal for a comprehensive seven-component program known as the Center for Women's Studies, the San Diego State College Foundation allocated at the beginning of this academic year \$42,000 to hire, (1) a half-time Coordinator for the Center for Women's Studies, and (2) a quarter-time Chairwoman of the academic component known as the "Women's Studies Program", with \$3,500 remaining for the secretarial and/or operating expenses. The Academic Component, the Women's Studies Program, received the usual departmental funding from the state.

Whereas, the Academic Program has been approved through the normal academic channels and operates under the sejus of the College of Arts and Letters, the Center for Women's Studies as a whole, including my position as Coordinator of the Center, is a Foundation Program under the jurisdiction of the office of Vice President for Administrative Affairs; in particular, I am paid by and am an employee of the SDSOC Foundation. Ultimately, I am responsible to those women participating in and being served by a Center such as this.

As of last Thursday, by a vote of the Board, the Academic Component has ceased to be a part of the Center. Although the authority vested in your Committee by Dean Carrier does not extend beyond the Academic program, my interest in this Program continues as one of its faculty, a member of its Board, and one of its founders.

It has always been my understanding that the relationship between the Board of the Women's Studies Program and your committee would be one of cooperation; with the result that operationally the Program would have maximum possible autonomy. Of course, at the same time, it also seemed clear to me that to expect real and complete autonomy in a system where any decision can be made or overturned anywhere in the hierarchy between Dean Carrier and the Chancellor's office is an illusion.

On the one hand, officially, the student-faculty Board, recommends its decisions to you for approval, as you recommend your decisions for approval to Dean Carrier. On the other hand, unofficially, we must hope and aim for maximum non-interference.

San Diego State College

San Diego, California 92115

It seems clear that the autonomy of the Program, such as it is, including the unofficial arrangement depends on its non-public character. Experience shows that untoward publicity given to such arrangements tends to bring on a tightening of authority and a return to stiffer legalistic procedures. This fact was precisely the basis for the informal agreement we have had concerning the Board's "low visibility". The breach of this agreement by some new members of the Board has brought on many of the difficulties we are now facing, and I hope that such unfortunate incidents can be prevented in the future.

Please contact me if I can be of any further help.

Sincerely,

Carol Rowell
Coordinator, Center for Women's Studies

cc: Dean Warren Carrier, College of Arts and Letters
Dr. Earnest O'Byrne, Vice President of Administrative Affairs