

WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

To: Academic Affairs Committee

From: Mary Gordon, Director, Women's Studies Program

On behalf of the Committee on Women's Studies, I submit for your approval the program on Women's Studies. The committee consists of:

Mary Gordon (chair)

Frank Duggan (secretary)

Linda Cool

Jan Thompson

Geraldine Tomlinson

Elizabeth Moran (ex-officio)

Jeanne Torre (ex-officio)

Background

In the fall of 1978, Rev. William Rewak, President of the University of Santa Clara, appointed a widely-representative Task Force on Women to study the concerns of all women on campus. Members of the Task Force identified the area of academic programs as a high priority. In a series of meetings, the Task Force focused on the need to establish, coordinate and "institutionalize" academically sound women's courses that would help promote the intellectual and personal growth of students and affect the University in constructive and significant ways. Accordingly, it directed two of its members to prepare a consultant grant application to the National Endowment for the

Humanities and appointed one of its members, Mary Gordon, as "consultancy coordinator." Both the President and the Dean of the College of Humanities demonstrated their enthusiastic support for the grant proposal. In 1978 the University received a consultant grant from NEH. The consultant appointed by NEH was Dr. Kathryn Kish Sklar, Professor of History and chair of the Women's Studies Program at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Establishment of the Women's Studies Program

After year-long intensive planning and activity by the coordinator and her committee, and with the advice of the consultant, who visited the campus a number of times, the Committee on Women's Studies presented its recommendations to the President on May 7, 1980. The committee consisted of Mary Gordon (chair), Deans Drahnann and Subbiondo, Linda Cool (Anthropology), Frank Duggan (English), Mary Ann Kriewall (Marketing), Trina Klienst (student) and ex-officio members, Elizabeth Moran and Christine Woodward. In essence the committee recommended establishment of a Women's Studies Program and appointment of a Director and a Committee to assist the Director. On May 12, 1980, the President accepted the recommendations and appointed the coordinator, Mary Gordon, as Director of the Women's Studies Program.

The consultant (Dr. Sklar) and the Committee on Women's Studies had agreed from the beginning that, in order to be permanent and respected, a Women's Studies Program should be exclusively academic, instructors should be regular members of the faculty and the courses regular offerings of departments. Planning and negotiation with faculty, chairs and deans had begun

during the year of the Consultant Grant, to increase the number of courses and encourage the hiring of scholars committed to teaching such courses. In 1978, only two regular members of the faculty (in History and Religious Studies) had offered courses relating to women. With a more supportive environment in the University, official sanction given to the Committee on Women's Studies and the presence on campus of the distinguished Consultant, more women were hired as faculty members, and women already on tenure-track appointments began planning or offering courses relating to women.

The Director of the Women's Studies Program appointed a new Committee on Women's Studies in the Fall Quarter, 1980. It is composed of five faculty members, and a student will be added when the Program begins officially in Fall Quarter, 1981. To reiterate, the Committee consists of Mary Gordon (History), Linda Cool (Anthropology), Frank Duggan (English), Jan Thompson (Fine Arts) and Geraldine Tomlinson (Biology).

Women's Studies Program, 1980-81

Six new courses on women are being offered in the academic year 1980-1981. Together with two established courses in History and Religious Studies, eight courses in all thus form the nucleus of the Women's Studies Program. Courses offered for the first time in 1980-1981 are in the departments of Anthropology, Classics, English (2), Fine Arts and Philosophy. All the instructors are women although it is not the intention of the Women's Studies Committee that all courses in the program be offered by women.

All instructors hold Ph.D's and all are regular members of the faculty. All of the courses are regular offerings of the various departments, supported and approved by chairs of the different departments, Deans and the Academic Vice-President. Of the eight instructors, three were hired in 1979-80. A tenure-track instructor (Political Science), hired in 1979-80, will offer a course in 1981-82. In addition, a recently hired tenure-track instructor in History will offer a course in the near future and professors in the law school are planning a course that, tentatively, will be offered through the department of History. Therefore, by the end of 1982, it is expected that at least 11 courses will be offered in the Women's Studies Program. Syllabi of the courses presently offered by departments are included as an appendix to this petition.

The Women's Studies Program is described in the forthcoming University Bulletin and courses are cross-listed in departments and the Program. The Women's Studies Program Committee has devised an emphasis in Women's Studies for students majoring in traditional disciplines. The Committee has worked in consultation with the Registrar, Dr. Bill Washburn, who approves of the emphasis.

Requirements:

A student must take at least six courses in Women's Studies, no more than two in the student's major.

All courses must be taken for a grade: pass/no pass is unacceptable.

Courses in Women's Studies may be used to satisfy simultan-

eously other college and university requirements.

Students must file a petition to enter the program; forms are available in the Registrar's office and in the Women's Studies Program office.

An emphasis in Women's Studies will be recorded on a student's transcript and diploma, if requirements are satisfied at graduation.

Conclusion

The Women's Studies Program requires no hiring of new faculty. It does not compete with majors and the Committee has no plans to offer a major in Women's Studies. Timing of courses will be worked out so that a sufficient number is offered each quarter. The emphasis on Women's Studies has been approved by the Registrar. The Program gives a name to a specific group of courses offered by different departments, and recognition to students taking the required number of courses. This emphasis in Women's Studies will enable students, while working toward a degree in a traditional discipline, to study the experiences, contributions and cultural images of women.