



Brooklyn College of the City University of New York

Bedford Avenue and Avenue H Brooklyn, New York 11210

Women's Studies Program

2157 Boylan Hall
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October 17, 1977

President John W. Kneller
President's Office
Brooklyn College

Dear President Kneller:

Although the college as a whole has suffered enormous reductions in enrollment due to the imposition of tuition and the cutbacks in open enrollments, the number of students taking Women's Studies courses has remained at over 800 for the fourth year, evidence of enormous student support.

The record of reappointments has, however, not reflected this support. Of thirty-four full-time faculty members who have taught or are teaching Women's Studies courses, twelve already had tenure or a CCE before participating in the Program. Twelve participating faculty have come up for tenure or re-appointment since the program's inception; ~~none~~ have been reappointed. This pattern represents a serious threat to the future integrity of the program, and to our greatest strengths: the number of faculty involved, including the number of disciplines they represent, and the continuity of involvement that we are trying to maintain.

WOMEN
HAVE BEEN
GRANTED
TENURE

The non-reappointments have of course been scattered among various departments, where Women's Studies has not been seen as a priority. The cumulative effect, however, has been to seriously erode the program. We are calling the pattern to your attention because it is ultimately only to you, the President, that we can turn, as a centrally located administrator who is in the position to take a broader overview. We know that you have supported the program and share any pride in its reputation for effectiveness and academic excellence.

Right now, the most immediate and immediately serious tenure question is that of Pamela Farley. One of the founders of the program, and now in her third year as a coordinator, Pamela is vitally important to Women's Studies at Brooklyn College. Her interdisciplinary expertise and breadth of vision have been essential to our development and growth; she is one of our most effective teachers and one of our most creative scholars. She has been directly involved in the foundation of the National Women's Studies Association and has earned a nationwide reputation for her participation in the development of the new academic field of Women's Studies. We really can't afford to lose her at Brooklyn College.