



The Graduate School and University Center
of The City University of New York

Center for the Study of Women and Society / Box 135-192
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September 23, 1983

Ms. Alison Bernstein
Education and Culture Program
The Ford Foundation
320 East 43rd Street
New York, New York 10017

Dear Alison:

In light of our conversation last week, I would like to add the enclosed addendum to the proposal from the CUNY Center for the Study of Women and Society. It elaborates in greater detail the nature and functions of what I called the Steering Committee in the proposal (p. 4) and would now like to call an Advisory Board.

As I see it, the addendum represents a clarification of the focus in our major outreach activities. We will increase minority faculty and student participation in the developing network of CUNY feminist scholars and will promote broader distribution and use of the results of feminist research by working systematically with faculty from CUNY's community colleges. Since the project described in the addendum is an outgrowth of the current activities of the CUNY Feminist Network, it will be called the CUNY Feminist Network Community College Curriculum Change Project. Not snappy, but it gets the point across.

After talking with you and with people at the Graduate Center, I have become very excited about the potential role the Center for the Study of Women and Society might play in bringing the results of feminist research to students and faculty at CUNY's community colleges. My own feeling, about which I have written at some length as regards psychology, is that by presenting the new

knowledge in varied contexts and to audiences different from those in which it was developed, we will receive valuable critical feedback about the strengths and limitations of the new scholarship about women. And so the work can become better. If the project we are proposing proves effective on this small scale, I see it as a first step in a larger project modelled after the Mellon Community College Project presently being carried out at the Graduate Center by Professor Abraham Ascher and Dr. Adele Bahn.

If you have questions or would like to talk with me further about this addendum, I would be glad to do so, either by phone or in your office.

Sincerely,

Mary Brown Parlee
Director

MBP/wp
Encl.

Countersigned by:

Alan Gartner
Director, Office of
Sponsored Research

September 23, 1983

A D D E N D U M

Center for the Study of Women and Society
Plans for Expansion and Further Development

CUNY Feminist Network
Community College Curriculum Change Project

The general goals of this project are twofold. One is a) to assess the current status of Women's Studies and general enrollment patterns of women students at CUNY's seven community colleges, b) to develop a political analysis for each campus of structures and personnel that determine students' exposure to women's studies material in their curricula, and c) to propose specific plans for increasing this exposure at each campus. The second general goal is a) to collect existing "packages" of resource material for integrating women's studies into traditional institutions and course content and b) to involve community college faculty in evaluating, and if necessary adapting, this material for their students, and c) to introduce the material into their courses and evaluate its effects.

These goals will be accomplished through the work of a faculty group drawn primarily from CUNY's community colleges. This group will be coordinated by the CUNY Feminist Network and supported by part-time research assistants provided by the Center.¹ Specifically, the project plan is as follows:

November - December, 1983: Collect available material for adding women's studies content to curricula.² Identify faculty from CUNY community colleges (7), four year colleges (1) and the Graduate Center (2) to participate in the faculty group - the Advisory Board for the project. This faculty will be identified by the CUNY Feminist Network from among those faculty who have participated in its activities and/or who are listed in the CUNY Feminist Directory. First priority will be given to minority faculty, with diversity of colleges and disciplines (or programs) also being considerations.

January - June/July, 1984: The Advisory Board will meet once a month for two main purposes.³ One is to consider issues and strategies for introducing or increasing the impact of women's studies on their campuses. In doing this

they will direct the research assistants in collection of relevant data and will prepare reports of the current status on each campus. They will also develop strategies and plans for change tailored to the specific situation of each campus. It is hoped that the faculty members will serve as nuclei for discussions of women's studies at their campuses as they do this.

The second purpose of the seminar is for the Board to review^{ew} available packages of women's studies materials and to evaluate their probable usefulness (both level and content) for their own and colleagues' courses.

Fall, 1984: Members of the Advisory Board will use the new materials in their classes and will continue to meet monthly to discuss the impact. A final report will summarize student and faculty evaluations of the strengths and limitations of some of the currently available "packages" of women's studies materials for with use with students at their, and perhaps other, community colleges. In addition, during the fall semester, two of the community college faculty will be released from half of their teaching loads to work with people from the CUNY Feminist Network on a proposal for increasing the impact of women's studies, and other uses of feminist research, at CUNY's community colleges.

In summary, the proposed project will:

✓ 1. Develop report of current status of women's studies and of women students in different programs at CUNY's community colleges, together with an analysis of the most effective strategies for change at each campus and a description of a specific plan for implementing these strategies.

† 2. Introduce, on a small scale, some of the currently available women's studies resource packages in to community college courses.

/ 3. Provide a critique from the faculty point of view of some of these resource packages for use in community college courses at CUNY (and perhaps also at other community colleges with similar populations). The project will also provide a preliminary assessment of students reactions.

Footnotes

1. Given their very heavy teaching loads, research assistant support or substantial released time is necessary for community college faculty to participate in this project. The research assistant time requested will allow each faculty member to direct an assistant's work (half-time) for approximately two weeks. During this time, data on course enrollments and on faculty and administration views will be gathered. The faculty member will work actively with the assistant to identify and provide access to information sources and resources. Our previous experience in compiling the CUNY Feminist Directory is that the sheer work of gathering information in the large, diverse, and very loosely organized City University will be enormous.

2. Peggy MacIntosh, of the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women has already provided a list of resources to available "packages" women's studies materials, and Elizabeth Minnich (a friend and former colleague at Barnard College) will undoubtedly provide further advice and consultation.

3. A third, non-explicit purpose of this seminar is faculty development; it will serve to acquaint the faculty with recent and relevant work in feminist scholarship in different disciplines.

7/2/83

Requested Budget
(November 1 - October 31)

	Requested from Ford	CUNY Contribution
Director's salary		\$51,054*
Secretary/admin. asst. (20 hrs/wk)	\$4,500	4,500
Newsletter	3,000	
CUNY Feminist Network Student assistant (15 hrs/wk, 4 wks) Conference		552 2,000
Directory of CUNY women's studies faculty and students (updating, Spring, 1984)	750	
Advisory Board (10 honaria, \$1,000 each)	10,000	
Faculty released time (2 faculty 1/2 time, Fall, 1984)	10,000	
Curriculum integration materials	1,000	
Research Assistance (40 hrs/wk)	18,000	
Research expenses	750	
Supplies, postage, xerox	1,250	1,500
Computer Time		800
Telephone	600	200
Annual Dues, NCRW		100
Total Direct Costs	49,850	60,706
Indirect Costs (@ 69.9%)	34,845	42,047
Total CUNY Contribution		137,598
Total requested from Ford	49,850	

*All salaries and wages include fringe benefits; 27% for Director's salary,
20% for research and support staff.