

March 26, 1976

Addendum to Proposal for an Institute for the Study of
Women and Sex Roles, CUNY Graduate School and University Center

From a variety of sources faculty and administrators of the Graduate School and University Center have been pressed to become seriously involved in the area of women's studies. Students have expressed the need for additional coursework on this subject to supplement the very few courses currently being offered at the doctoral level that pertain to the study of women and sex roles. Students who have wished to pursue interdisciplinary study and/or dissertation research in the area of women's studies have found it difficult to obtain the necessary encouragement and guidance. Faculty and students seeking support from outside agencies to fund proposed research projects have expressed their need for the sponsorship of an official body within the Graduate School and University Center. At the same time, we have received suggestions that range at one extreme from the development of a community public information center with consciousness-raising as a major goal, at the other to the proposal for a new graduate degree in Women's Studies.

A committee of concerned faculty, students, and administrators studied and discussed these issues during 1975 and concluded that while the Graduate School and University Center needed to develop a mechanism to support the scholarly study of women and sex roles, it did not recommend either the public-information model nor the development of a new degree. Instead, the committee agreed that a program appropriately titled an Institute for the Study of Women and Sex Roles is needed to fulfill two major purposes: a) to coordinate the development of research and instruction in the area, especially of

an interdisciplinary nature, and b) to provide a vehicle for seeking outside funding for sponsored research and related scholarly programs such as symposia and conferences. The overall character of the proposal is an emphasis on scholarship rather than on public information, although the committee agreed that the latter objective might assume a more prominent role once the major functions were well under way.

The Graduate School and University Center therefore proposes to establish an Institute for the Study of Women and Sex Roles as outlined in the earlier memorandum dated February 18, 1976. When the Institute is approved, the President will appoint a Director. After one year the progress of the Institute will be evaluated so that planning for subsequent years may take place.