



Nancy B. Miller, Ph.D., Executive Officer

September 30, 2005

Dr. Charles B. Reed, Chancellor
California State University
401 Golden Shore, Room 641
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Dr. Reed,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Discrimination Committee of Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS). We are dismayed that the well documented case of discrimination by San Diego State University against Dr. Pat Washington is still not resolved. Given Dr. Washington's record as a sociologist and a women's studies scholar, we are disturbed that SDSU denied her tenure in the first place. But it is equally outrageous that SDSU did not heed the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's ruling that Dr. Washington should be reinstated. These actions seriously threaten the integrity and the reputation of California's state university system, and they have ramifications for the institution of academe in the U.S. generally.

SWS was founded in 1969 to foster social equality for women by encouraging research for, on, and about women and by educating our academic colleagues among others about the results and implications of this research. SWS's journal, *Gender & Society* is one of the most respected journals in the field of gender studies. As a professional organization, SWS is committed to opposing all forms of discrimination in the academy. SWS is now an international organization of more than 1,100 social scientists who share a commitment to the social equality of women.

SWS first became aware of Dr. Washington's case almost two years ago. We are now adding our voice to the collective voice of hundreds of individuals and organizations that have protested the way Dr. Washington has been treated and continues to be treated by SDSU. In Dr. Washington's case, we are particularly disturbed by the intersection of racial and sexual discrimination.

We urge you to end this unjust and prolonged battle. Please take action to bring SDSU into compliance with the EEOC's ruling so that Dr. Washington may finally be returned to her rightful position as a faculty member at SDSU.

Sincerely,

Susan E. Chase, Chair
Discrimination Committee, SWS