

Senate Resolution
In Support of Civil Liberties at SUNY New Paltz

Whereas, the Old Westbury Faculty has been informed that the academic Administration of SUNY-New Paltz, under Acting President Steven G Poskanzer, Has refused funding to a proposed conference on Women and War, Peace and Revolution organized by the Women's Studies Program at the campus for October 19, 2002. This is the first time that funding has been denied to a program under the auspices of Women's Studies.

In the recent past, the Trustees of the State University of New York attacked a conference entitled "Revolting Behavior: The Challenges of Women's Sexual Freedom" also sponsored by Women's Studies at New Paltz, producing a major investigation of all academic programs at that campus, reviews of syllabi and the eventual removal of the former president who had the courage to defend academic freedom against ideological intrusions. The new Acting President of SUNY-New Paltz has decided that the proposed conference on Women and War, Peace and Revolution is too ideologically imbalanced. He fails to recognize that the general area of research into war and peace has moved to center stage among women's studies researchers and, in recognition of its importance, the organizing theme of the 2004 American Historical Association convention in Washington will be war and peace.

Therefore, be it resolved that

we, the Faculty Senate of SUNY College at Old Westbury recognizing that academic freedom is put to the test when unpopular views are expressed, and noting that the withdrawal of funding for this conference has occurred in part in response to objections to the politics of some of the participants, as reported in the Chronicle of Higher Education-Oct.4,2002:A15.

we, understanding that in any case, withdrawal of prior levels of funding in the context of expression of unpopular views has a de facto chilling effect on the practice of academic freedom, and conscious of the emergency need for funding caused by this action, urges Acting President Proskanzer 's administration to review and reverse its decision and restore funding for the conference on Women and War, Peace, and Revolution and

we, the Old Westbury Faculty commits ourselves to supporting the forthcoming conference and invites everyone to attend and donate generously to Women's Studies/CAS. Women's Studies Program

State University of New York
New Paltz, N.Y. 12501