TO: Dr. Tony Frank, President

FROM: Dr. Carmen Menoni, Chair,
       Dr. Paola Malpezzi Price, Co-Chair

SUBJECT: Recommendation to Provide Greater Support for the Office of Women’s Programs and Studies

DATE: April 28, 2009

The Commission on Women and Gender Equity would like to bring to your attention the outstanding efforts of the Office of Women’s Programs and Studies (OWPS) in promoting awareness of female students’ issues with special emphasis on the prevention of student assault. With very little funding, the OWPS has offered in the last few years and is offering presently the “Men’s Project,” a semester long workshop where male participants are engaged in identifying sexual harassment, hate crimes, etc. and are trained to become women’s advocates. Statistics show that many of the participants pursue a Women’s Studies certificate after participating in this workshop.

The Commission has identified several aspects of this project that could be used to train faculty and administrators as a means to increase awareness on women’s issues.

The Commission strongly endorses the present efforts of the OWPS. The Commission would recommend increased support for the academic side of this unit through the addition of a Co-Director or other appropriate administrative support to oversee curricular and faculty issues.

cc: Dana Hiatt
       CWGE members