

Resolution in Support of Pat Washington
Adopted by the CFA Assembly April 23, 2006

WHEREAS, Pat Washington was denied tenure in the Women's Studies Department at San Diego State University (SDSU) in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Pat Washington had been the only Black professor ever hired in the 33-year history of the Women's Study Department; and

WHEREAS, Pat Washington is an internationally known and widely acclaimed scholar popular with students; and

WHEREAS, Pat Washington had received the "Teacher of the Year" for three consecutive years and was fired only weeks after receiving the award for the third time; and

WHEREAS, there is "reasonable cause" to believe that Pat Washington was denied tenure on the basis of her race/sex; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) ruled against SDSU in favor of Washington after a fourteen month investigation; and

WHEREAS, Pat Washington's struggle for reinstatement, back pay, and tenure has won support from organizations prominent in the battles against discrimination and oppression, including the San Diego Chapter of the NAACP; the California Black Faculty and Staff Association; Lambda Letters Project; the San Diego Chapter of the Peace & Freedom Party; the San Diego Concilio for Higher Education; Equality California (formerly California Alliance for Pride and Equality); the National Association for Women; the American Association of University Women; Sociologists for Women in Society; WAGE—We Advocate Gender Equality; and the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA); and

WHEREAS, discrimination continues to be a fact of academic life for women of color; and

WHEREAS, the court's decision that the consideration and acceptance of personal feelings of colleagues as legitimate cause for dismissal places all faculty at risk;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CFA supports Pat Washington's quest for justice and equity in the resolution of her case; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that CFA supports Washington's challenge to the recent California Court of Appeal's decision granting summary judgment to the defendant (the CSU Board of Trustees).