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**Background material to document Dean Pryse's
role in the approval process of Senate Bill 0708-23
(Women's Studies MA / Sociology PhD)**

0. Dean Pryse is a former chair and former director of graduate studies of the Department of Women's Studies. She continues to be a core member of that department.

1. At the May 12, 2008 Senate meeting Dean of Graduate Studies Marjorie Pryse (an ex-officio member of the senate by virtue of her office) spoke in favor of Senate Bill 0708-23 (WSS / SOC combined degree program).

2. Late May 2008: e-mail from Dean Pryse to Senate Chair Hoyt

Reed--I'm flying back from California as I write this and am logging on
> from Chicago, but did I miss something here? I thought Senate approved
> the WSS MA/SOC PhD joint program. If this is the case, on what grounds
> would the Senate leadership reopen discussion of a bill that Senate had
> already passed? If you are attempting to do so, and if there is
> precedent for Senate to reopen discussion, it would seem appropriate to
> contact both Sociology and Women's Studies both as a courtesy and to
> invite additional information, particularly concerning the existence (and
> curricula) of joint programs nationally between WSS MA and PhD programs
> in Psychology, History, and other fields. Perhaps you've already done
> so? Please advise. And Jon will certainly consult with SUNY Central.
> Thanks--Marjorie
>

3. September 18, 2008: e-mail message from Dean Pryse (es-officio member of GAC) to GAC Chair Larry Kranich:

Larry—

I will not be able to attend Tuesday's meeting, as I have indicated when I saw the schedule of meetings. This was not a date I gave Joanne as available for me.

Concerning the question of the combined MA Women's Studies/PHD sociology, it is not at all appropriate for the GAC to be discussing this issue. I do not understand by what policy in the Charter the Senate Executive Committee—or any of its councils—has the prerogative to re-discuss a matter that has been approved at all levels: departments, CAS Faculty Council, GAC, and the Senate itself. The Senate passed the bill, and then it was supposed to go to the President for signature (as do all bills, once Senate has passed them). By what authority did anyone attempt to "hold back" this bill? Unless and until we have had a chance to fully explore what happened after the bill left the Senate floor and arrived at the President's desk, I strongly oppose any re-discussion by GAC of this bill and respectfully request that you do not hold such a conversation in my absence on Tuesday.

Please bear in mind that what is at stake here is not the content of any particular bill, but rather the behavior of Reed (and perhaps others) on the Senate Executive Committee who appear (according to the e-mail I was copied on over the summer that was signed by Reed) to

have "held back" the bill for no particular reason and contrary to any legitimate Senate process. Senate procedure, it strikes me, is NOT the prerogative of the GAC, and therefore I strongly object to this item appearing on the agenda for Tuesday. Best--Marjorie

4. Dean Pryse (and others) voiced strong objections in mid september 2008 about the senate officers' intervention with Interim President Philip. UAlbany Senate Chair John Delano wrote in a September 19, 2008 e-mail to the other Senate Officers Collier, Hoyt, and Range:

".....the perceptions are way out of alignment on the part of the

> proposers of Bill 0708-23 (The WSS MA / SOC PhD). (a) I had a 2-hour telephone conversation (!)

> with Marjorie (Added: Marjorie Pryse, Dean of Graduate Studies) this afternoon.

(b) Three individuals associated with

> WSS/SOC have requested a meeting with George (Added: George Philip, Interim President) on how they have been wronged

> by all of us in this process. (c) There is a perception that the subset of

> the Senate Executive Committee was out-of-bounds by approaching George

> with questions after the Bill had passed the Senate on May 12.

(d) I had been planning to mention the WSS/SOC issue in my > Chair's Report on Monday, even before this explosion, and still plan to

> make reference to it.

5. September 22, 2008: At the senate meeting, Senate Chair Delano explicitly reminds all senators that we should be mindful of apparent conflicts of interest and recuse ourselves if found in such situations.

See http://www.albany.edu/senate/Chairs_report_Sept2208.ppt#16

6. November 11, 2008: Collier, Hoyt, and Range are invited to a GAC meeting at which the report of the CEPP regarding the need for regulations concerning combined MA / PhD programs. CEPP chair is a staff person in the office of the Dean of Graduate Studies. Dean Pryse is present at the meeting (the first one she (an ex-officio member of GAC) attended this year, as she stated at the meeting). She fully participates in the discussion, arguing on behalf of the WSS / SOC bill. At the end, Dean Pryse moves that the guests should be excused. Details are in the GAC 11/11/08 minutes which were distributed to the SEC in draft form at the special meeting on 2/11/09.