

A Guide to the Christine Sweeney Papers MS.01

Finding aid prepared by Laura Ruttle

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Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules

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Summary Information

Repository	College Archives & Special Collections / Wallace E. Mason Library / Keene State College
Creator - Donor	Sweeney, Christine, Dr.
Title	Christine Sweeney Papers
Date	1963-1984
Extent	1.25 Linear feet 5 legal sized clamshell boxes
Language	English
Abstract	The papers of Christine Sweeney including personal papers and court and trial documentation from her case which was brought to the Supreme Court as Sweeney v. Board of Trustees of Keene State College, 569 F. 2d 169.

Preferred Citation note

Christine Sweeney Papers / Archive and Special Collections / Keene State College

Biographical/Historical note

Christine Sweeney graduated from Keene State College with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 1943. She later received her Master of Arts and her PhD. in Education from Catholic University of America in 1956 and 1962 respectively.

Before coming to teach at Keene State College in January of 1969, she previously taught at the primary and secondary levels from 1943-1960 and served as a Graduate Assistant at the Catholic University of America in the 1961-1962 school year and was later appointed as an instructor in 1962 and taught there until 1966. After moving on from the Catholic University of America, she later taught at Emmanuel College in Boston from 1966 to 1968.

Dr. Sweeney's career at Keene State College appeared to go smoothly until 1971 when she was passed up to attend a trip to England the following fall and a man and female alternate were appointed instead of her. Dr. Sweeney was granted tenure in 1972 without any apparent difficulty. She was recommended for promotion to the rank of full professor by her department and its chairman, Dr. Paul Blacketer in the 1972-1973 academic year. An all-male FEAC (Faculty Evaluations Advisory Committee) voted unanimously against promotion and Dean Clarence Davis concurred. Dr. Sweeney was given no reasons for the adverse decision. Dr. Sweeney appealed to the FAC (Faculty Appeals Committee) in July of 1973. The FAC strongly recommended that Dr. Sweeney be considered for the current academic year, 1973-1974. The president, Leo Redfern, declined to permit what he viewed as a short-circuiting of normal procedures and notified the FAC in April of 1974 of his decision. Shortly after the decision, Sweeney filed charges of sex discrimination with the New Hampshire Commission of Human Rights and the EEOC.

Christine Sweeney again sought promotion in the 1974-1975 academic year. A new FEAC, again entirely male, voted against her promotion and once again the dean concurred. In this instance, the dean informed Dr. Sweeney by letter that the decision was based on a failure to meet the qualifications enunciated in the faculty manual. Dr. Sweeney again appealed to the FAC, alleging sex discrimination. The FAC decried the unprofessional treatment of Dr. Sweeney to President Redfern and insisted she be given more detailed reasons for her adverse decision, however, they couldn't find any evidence of sex discrimination.

Dr. Sweeney's third attempt for promotion during the 1975-1976 academic year was successful. The FEAC, composed of four men and one woman, voted unanimously in her favor and her promotion was effective July 1, 1976. Dr. Sweeney's case against Keene State College was appealed all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States. In the court decision, Board of Trustees of Keene State College et al. V. Christine M. Sweeney, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Dr. Sweeney that her lack of promotion was based on sex discrimination.

Scope and Contents note

3 Series, 5 boxes

Series 1: Personal and Professional Life Series 2: Trial Information Series 3: Court Documents

Administrative Information

Publication Information

College Archives & Special Collections / Wallace E. Mason Library / Keene State College 1963-1984

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Processing Information note

This collection and finding aid were organized and produced by Laura Ruttle.

Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- Keene State College Archives

Series 1: Personal and Professional Life

Collection Inventory

Series 1 Series 1: Personal and Professional Life

Box 1

Folder 1: Faculty Activities Summary and Faculty Assignment Report 1974 - 1976

Folder 2: Faculty and Student Evaluations 1963 - 1976

Folder 3: Faculty Service Information Reports February 1, 1968 - June 30, 1976

Folder 4: Goals November 12, 1973

Folder 5: Keene State College Documents 1969 - January 11, 1978

Folder 6: Keene State College Memorandums February 16, 1970 - May 9, 1984

Folder 7: Professional Achievements June 30, 1965 - August 16, 1976

Folder 8: References April 10, 1973 - October 14, 1974

Series 2: Trial Information

Folder 9: Keene State College Salaries 1972 - 1974

Folder 10: Keene State College Documents - Resumes, Inter-Department Memos, Faculty Promotion, Faculty Information Reports, Letter to Dean Davis 1971 - 1973

Folder 11: Yellow Legal Pad n.d.

Series 2: Trial Information

Box 2

Folder 1: Case Information April 4, 1973 - November 14, 1978

Folder 2: Correspondence April 30, 1970 - December 6, 1976

Folder 3: Correspondence February 23, 1977 - May 1, 1980

Folder 4: News Clippings April 30, 1971 - May 1980

Folder 5: Manchester Union Leader January 4, 1977

Folder 6: News Clippings November 17, 1976 - February 5, 1981

Series 3: Court Documents

Series 3: Court Documents

Box 3

Folder 1 Folder 1: Judgement on Decision by Court April 13, 1977

Folder 2: Notice of Appeal May 4 & 12, 1977

Folder 3: Opinion of the Court n.d.

Folder 4: Order of the Court May 19, 1977 - February 20, 1979

Folder 5: Brief for Defendants -- Appellants August 1, 1977

Folder 6: Brief for Defendants -- Appellants - Reply September 9, 1977

Folder 7: Brief for Plaintiff -- Appellee August 31, 1977

Folder 8: Statement of Issues -- Brief of Plaintiff n.d.

Folder 9: Opinion of the Court January 4, 1978

Folder 10: Orders of the Court March 20 - December 19, 1978

Series 3: Court Documents

Box 4

Folder 11: Supreme Court -- Decision on Petition for Writ of Certiorari November 13, 1978

Folder 12: Supreme Court -- Petition -- Ford on Petition for Writ of Certiorari October, 1978

Folder 13: Supreme Court -- Petition for Writ of Certiorari October, 1978

Folder 14: Supreme Court -- Response to Petition for Writ of Certiorari & Brief for Respondent in Opposition October, 1978

Folder 15: Faculty Information Reports, Meeting Notes, Letter to Dean Clarence Davis February 1, 1969 - December 31, 1972

Folder 16: Case Files - Primarily correspondence re: promotion and the case 1973

Folder 17: Case Files - Primarily Correspondence re: the case 1974

Folder 18: Case Files - Primarily Correspondence 1975

Folder 19: Case Files January - March, 1976

Folder 20: Case Files April - September, 1976

Series 3: Court Documents

Box 5

Folder 21: Case Files September - November, 1976

Folder 22: Correspondence re: the case January 19, 1977 - April 14, 1977

Folder 23: Motion for Leave, Objection to Motion, Response to Objection November, 1978 - December, 1978

Folder 24: Correspondence re: case and court docs 1979

Folder 25: Correspondence re: case and case files April 15, 1980 - July 14, 1980