

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 25, 2008

**Statement of University of Michigan Students and Faculty in Support of Andrea Smith's Tenure Case**

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On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008, University of Michigan's College of Literature, Science and the Arts (LSA) issued a negative tenure recommendation for Assistant Professor Andrea Lee Smith. Jointly appointed in the Program in American Culture and the Department of Women's Studies, Dr. Smith's body of scholarship exemplifies scholarly excellence with widely circulated articles in peer-reviewed journals and numerous books in both university and independent presses including *Native Americans and the Christian Right* published this year by Duke University Press. Dr. Smith is one of the greatest indigenous feminist intellectuals of our time. A nominee for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. Smith has an outstanding academic and community record of service that is internationally and nationally recognized. She is a dedicated professor and mentor and she is an integral member of the University of Michigan (UM) intellectual community. Her reputation and pedagogical practices draw undergraduate and graduate students from all over campus and the nation.

Dr. Smith received the news about her tenure case while participating in the United States' hearings before the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. Ironically, during those very same hearings, the 2003 U.S. Supreme Court decisions that restricted affirmative action policies at UM specifically were cited as violations of international law. At the same time, there is an undeniable link between the Department of Women's Studies and LSA's current tenure recommendations and the long history of institutional restrictions against faculty of color. In 2008, students of color are coming together to protest the way UM's administration has fostered an environment wherein faculty of color are few and far between, Ethnic Studies course offerings have little financial and institutional support, and student services for students of color are decreasing each year.

**To Support Professor Andrea Smith:** The Provost must hear our responses! Write letters in support of Andrea Smith's tenure case. Address email letters to ALL of the following:

- Teresa Sullivan, Provost and Executive VP for Academic Affairs, LSA, [tsull@umich.edu](mailto:tsull@umich.edu)
- Lester Monts, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, LSA, [lmonts@umich.edu](mailto:lmonts@umich.edu)
- Mary Sue Coleman, President, [PresOff@umich.edu](mailto:PresOff@umich.edu)
- TenureForAndreaSmith@gmail.com

Voice your ideas on the web forum at <http://www.woclockdown.org/>

**To Support Women of Color at Michigan and the Crisis of Women's Studies and Ethnic Studies:** Attend the student organized March 15<sup>th</sup> Conference at UM!!!! *Campus Lockdown: Women of Color Negotiating the Academic Industrial Complex* is free and open to the public. Speakers include renowned activists and scholars Piya Chatterjee, Angela Davis, Rosa Linda Fregoso, Ruthie Gilmore, Fred Moten, Clarissa Rojas, and Haunani-Kay Trask. For more information and to register, visit: <http://www.woclockdown.org/>.

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