

March 3, 2016, Meeting of the Commission for Women

18 in attendance: Hillary Fouts, Mary Papke, Jennifer Dobbins, Kierstyn Lamour, Vera Pantanizopoulos-Bronx, Rita Smith, Misty Bailey, Rachel Chen, Patricia Freeland, Mary Lucal, Teresa Fisher, Marianne Wanamaker, Thura Mack, Lisa Reyes Mason, Bruce MacLennan, Wendy Syer, Stephanie TerMaath, Jessica Welch

- I. Minutes for February: approved with edits.
- II. Reports from Co-Chairs
 - a. Upcoming events for Women's History Month:
 - i. "Closing the Confidence Gap," March 31, Mary Greer Room
 1. A relaxed brown bag lunch discussion open to the public, led by Mary Lucal and Rita Smith.
 - ii. Second Annual Women in STEM Research Symposium, April 15, all day in the Min Kao Building
 - b. Professor Fouts is seeking a Vice Chair for next year. Please contact her if you are interested.
 - c. Application to join the CFW next year is forthcoming.
- III. Legislative diversity budget cuts:
 - a. Ongoing hearings on diversity within the Tennessee House of Representatives Education Committee.
 - b. Yesterday, the legislature passed a budget amendment to defund the Office for Diversity & Inclusion. The funds instead would be directed to Agricultural Extension work in several areas in the state.
 - c. Much of the questioning implies that the University has already "met" our "diversity goals"—i.e., based on numbers of racial minorities at the University. There seems to be a lack of understanding that diversity is broader than race or one set of statistics.
 - d. The Chancellor has made arguments to the legislature that, if for no other reason, employers demand college graduates who understand diversity.
 - e. How can you help contact legislators?
 - i. Please sign up for UT Advocacy. You are welcome to use a @utk.edu email and UTK stationary, but your personal information and your address where you are registered to vote is likely to have more impact.
 - ii. SGA is planning a response and a petition.
- IV. Updates
 - a. Family leave policy for graduate assistants: communicated with the Dean of Students, and no university-wide policy exists. However, many of our sister schools in the SEC and Tennessee public schools such as MTSU have uniform policies. Future coordination with the Faculty Senate, Martin Walker, and Commissioner Dr. Thompson as to a model policy.
 - b. WiStar
 - i. New support network for women in STEM, created by Commissioner Dr. Stephanie TerMaath in the Department of Mechanical, Aerospace and

Biomedical Engineering. Dr. TerMaath has planned this group after inspiration and training at the HERS Institute.

- ii. Seeks to connect faculty and graduate student women together in social and educational events concerning professional development opportunities and future careers in research.
 - c. Ad hoc committee as to diversity issues in the legislature and to centralize responses.
- V. Awards: Notable Woman Award (administrator)
- a. Dr. Caula Beyl: Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
 - b. Dr. Deborah Welch: Professor and Head, Department of Psychology
- VI. Awards: Angie Warren Perkins Award (Assistant Professor)
- a. Dr. Lisa Lindley: Assistant Professor, College of Nursing
 - b. Dr. M. Katherine Tolbert: Assistant Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine
 - c. Dr. Shannen Dee Williams: Department of History
 - d. Dr. Jioni Lewis: Department of Psychology
 - e. Dr. Michelle Christian: Department of Sociology
 - f. Dr. Sharon Jean-Phillippe: Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries
 - g. Dr. Stephanie TerMaath: Department of Mechanical, Aerospace and Biomedical Engineering
 - h. Dr. Yujeong Park: Department of Theory & Practice in Teacher Education
- VII. Adjourn