

Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 2nd February 2012

1. Call to order

Mary Papke called to order the regular meeting of the **Commission for Women** at **12:00 noon** on **Thursday, 2nd February, 2012**, in Hodges Library Conference Room 605.

2. Roll call

The following persons were present:

Mary Papke	Joy DeSensi
Leigh Schlactus	Wendy Syer
Caitlin Nolan	Jenny Richter
Taryn Norman	Rosa Thomas
Margaret Crawford	Noriko Horiguchi
Jenny Moshak	
Rachel Chen	
Thura Mack	
Ron Tredway	
Vince Anfara	

3. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes from Thursday, 3rd November, 2011, were approved with corrections.

4. Open issues

a) Report by the Chair

- i. The Commission Chairs met with Susan Martin. In response to their questions about the progress of hiring a Campus Diversity Officer, Susan Martin said that there will be movement on hiring soon. The Chairs expressed concern that there has also been no movement on including a diversity statement on all syllabi.
- ii. The Commission received nominations for the HERS institute from all across the UT system. Awards were made to Sherry Cummings from Social Work (on the Nashville campus) and Jenny Moshak from Women's Athletics. Both will attend the Bryn Mawr institute.
- iii. There have been three nominations for the Notable Woman Award. Voting will begin soon.

- iv. There have been six nominations for the Angie Warren Perkins's Award and the call for nominations is still open. Please email Mary Papke, if you'd like to serve on the committee.
- v. Please also email Mary Papke with suggestions and nominations for Commission for Women Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members for 2012-2013.
- vi. Mary Papke received an email from the Faculty Women's Club. The organization has approached Chancellor Cheek about renaming the club the University Women's Club, and they have expressed a desire to work more closely with the Commission for Women. The group states that they want to expand their appeal to a wider range of women on campus. They also have scholarships available for female students. Mary Papke suggested the Commission meet with the Faculty Women's Club first to ascertain whether their goals align with the Commission's commitment to a broader sense of diversity and raising awareness about gender issues on campus. We should ask how a faculty or staff woman benefits from being involved in the group.

b) Report of Committees and Faculty Senate

- i. Vince Anfara reported that the Faculty Senate has written a letter to the Strategic Planning Committee inquiring whether the goals and initiatives of the task force accurately reflect where the individual institutions are headed, rather than the system as a whole. For example, while a Campus Diversity Officer is a vital hire, each campus has different diversity issues. Only an email response was received.
- ii. The CDI wrote a letter, which was endorsed by the Commissions, the Office of Disabilities Services, and the Office of Equity and Diversity, to the Chancellor's office regarding the Faculty Survey and the lack of adequate demographic information garnered from the survey. The response cited confidentiality concerns that the letter's authors felt was not satisfactory. The new survey's questions will match those questions from the previous survey for consistency. Margie Nichols will take the issue to the Chancellor's cabinet.
- iii. Jenny Moshak reported from the Commission for LGBT People. The Commission will write a letter to CAB and Human Resources questioning whether the University can realistically attract top candidates for positions if diversity is not taken seriously. Ron Tredway responded that the Applicant Track System (that went live on January 18th) seeks to improve the application and hiring experience. Vince Anfara asked whether the new system charges a \$30 fee. Ron Tredway will look into this. Concerns were raised about the lack of collaboration on the new tracking system. For example, the Office of Equity and Diversity were invited late and did not feel like their input was valued. Mary Papke suggested that Human Resources could hold a brown bag lunch to gain feedback on the new tracking system, and she stated that a conduit of conversation needs to be opened up. Vince Anfara expressed concern that information is not getting to the right people.
- iv. Jenny Moshak reported that iO Tillet Wright will visit campus around March 8-10th as part of her project entitled "Self Evident Truths," a collage of four to five thousand LGBT faces.
- v. For Women's History Month, the Commission for Women will host a Poetry reading on Tuesday, March 13th at 7pm, Mary Greer Room, Hodges Library, featuring Erin

Elizabeth Smith and Carolyn Stice. A Fiction Reading will be held on Thursday, March 15th at 7pm, Mary Greer Room, Hodges Library, featuring Margaret Dean and Abigail Griffith.

c) Other Business

- i. Leigh Schlactus reported from the Women's Coordinating Council that the Carousel Theatre will host the *Vagina Monologues* in February. Jenni Schaefer will also visit campus on February 22nd to discuss eating disorders.
- ii. The statement regarding romantic relationships between faculty and students is still on the table. Cheryl Travis is working on this statement. Vince Anfara expressed concern about the slow movement of this issue because it will take considerable time to pass through the senate.