

## Commission for Women

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 6, 2014

1. Call to Order

Mary Papke called to order the regular meeting of the Commission for Women at 12:00 noon on Thursday, February 6, 2014, in Hodges Library Conference Room 605.

2. Roll Call

The following people were present: Rachel Chen, Hillary Fouts, David Golden, Thura Mack, Stephanie Metz, Mary Papke, Cynthia Peterson, Wendy Syer, Rosa E. Thomas, Marie Hartke, and Shawana Davis.

3. Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from December 5, 2013, were approved.

4. Open Issues

a) Report by the Chair

- i. Mary Papke reported meeting with the Provost and the Chairs of the other Commissions. The Chairs were particularly interested in the Commission for Women's idea to connect with similar commissions in Tennessee, the region, and the SEC.
- ii. Eight nominations have been submitted for the Angie Warren Perkins Award. The Chancellor will provide the funds for this award.
- iii. Six nominations have been submitted for the Notable Woman Award. Vice Chancellor for Diversity Rickey Hall suggested inviting the award winner to give a lecture on campus and host a reception for her. In addition, the Commission could solicit an original art piece in conjunction with the winner's interests. The Commissioners felt these changes could be instituted next year and Rickey Hall offered to help promote and fund them.
- iv. Mary Papke noted that the Commission has planned a number of events to mark Women's History month in March and asked for updates from those organizing these events.
  - a. Taryn Norman's WST 310 students will create a presentation on UTK women of the past and present for the library's display case.
  - b. Rosa E. Thomas confirmed that Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Theresa M. Lee will give a talk on women and sleep issues on March 26<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-1:00 pm.
  - c. Cynthia Peterson is selecting speakers for a brown bag lunch on women in the sciences.

- d. Rickey Hall will also hold a brown bag lunch or open forum on women's issues on campus from his perspective.
  - e. Stephanie Metz reported that creative writers from the English department will give a reading of their work, both poetry and fiction, on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
  - f. Marie Hartke announced the various events sponsored by the Women's Coordinating Council, also for Women's History Month. Jennifer Baumgartner will give a talk March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the UC Auditorium. On March 5<sup>th</sup>, the Women's Coordinating Council will screen *Kristen's Story* in the UC Auditorium at 7pm. A Sex Education Debate will be held March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the UC Ballroom. The Women's Center will host a Chat-N-Chew on March 26<sup>th</sup> from 11am-2pm. Finally, on March 29<sup>th</sup> they will sponsor a 5K Run/Walk, Campus-wide, from approximately 8am-2pm.
- v. Stephanie Metz will retype the Commission for Women's bylaws to include changes suggested by the Chair and Commissioners and submit them to the Commissioners for the next meeting, when a vote will be taken.
  - vi. Stephanie Metz will distribute the nomination materials for the Angie Warren Perkins and Notable Woman Awards so that the Commissioners can examine the materials. She will also create a ballot for these awards for the March meeting.
- b) Report of Committees and Commissions
- i. Thura Mack shared that the Council for Diversity and Interculturalism is working to creating an award for an office, program, or department that displays excellence in advancing diversity and inclusion at UTK.
  - ii. On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Council for Diversity and Interculturalism will host Everyone Matters Day.
  - iii. The Outreach component of the Council for Diversity and Interculturalism has also submitted a Ready for the World proposal for an Ambassador's program to receive training in social justice issues. The Council's next meeting will be held on February 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - iv. Faculty Senate has been discussing Senator Campfield's bill concerning restrictions on how student fees are spent and possible repercussions at UTK.
  - v. The Senate is working to increase bereavement benefits to five days across the board for any type of bereavement.
  - vi. Jenny Fowler will host two forums the week of February 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss academic freedom.

c) Other Business

- i. Marie Hartke shared that the Women's Coordinating Council will sponsor performances of *The Vagina Monologues* at 7 pm in the UC Ballroom on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - ii. Rachel Chen noted that Rickey Hall is planning a summit for the future and that he is encouraging the commissions to forward links to their websites to be posted on his office's site.
5. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.