

Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 4, 2013

1. Call to order

Mary Papke called to order the regular meeting of the **Commission for Women** at **12:00 noon** on **Thursday, April, 2013**, in Hodges Library Conference Room 605.

2. Roll call

The following persons were present:

Joy DeSensi	
Wendy Syer	
Steve Thomas	
Mary Papke	
Keith Kirkland	
Rosa Thomas	
Dan Berryman	
Hilary Fouts	
Jenny Richter	
Wendy Syer	
Thura Mack	
	Rachel Chen
	Kierstyn Lamour
	Cheryl Travis
	Stephanie Metz

3. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes from Thursday, February 7, 2013, were approved.

4. Open issues

a) Report by the Chair

- i. Mary Papke did not meet with Susan Martin this month. She said her correspondence with the Provost's office on the work the CFW presented on the "Romantic Relationship" portion of the faculty handbook was met with some hesitation. She said Susan Martin's response was that she would need to "to check back *if* there will be action" on this issue.
- ii. Numerous people contacted the Chair over the past month who were very concerned about UT's "Sex Week" cancellation. She said her understanding was that the program was a direct response to the "Top 25" goal of the university and that students designed the program with full approval through the Provost's office. Dr. Papke's advice is not to write a letter, but to put concerns in the CFW's "End of Year" report, which is filed publically. She is going to encourage the other Commissions to do this as well.

b) Report of Committees and Faculty Senate

- i. Keith Kirkland (CFLGBT) announced that their Alumni Association “Garden Party and Lavender Graduation” will be held on Thursday, April 25th, at 2:00 in the Mary Greer Room of the library. He encouraged members to attend.
- ii. Rachel Chen (CFB) reported that the commission discussed their upcoming election.
- iii. Steve Thomas reported for the Faculty Senate. The appendices in the faculty handbook are not enforceable, so they are dropping them with the intention of adding language to Chapter 2 (referred to as “Faculty Affairs”).

c) Other Business

- i. Hilary Fouts announced that the “Work/Life Balance” panel the CFW sponsored in March was very well attended (approximately 50 people came). Audience members included students, support staff, administrators, and professors. There were requests from the audience for more of these types of panels in the future. Dr. Fouts suggested the CFW sponsor several of these panels over the next year that address women’s health, school, and work.
- ii. Rosa Thomas reported for the CFW sponsored panel on “Smoking, Sex, and Sleep” was written up in *The Beacon* newspaper, but had a smaller audience than they hoped for.
- iii. Kierstyn Lamour reported that the CFW supported creative writing reading on March 5th featured excellent graduate student writers and attracted a small but attentive audience. A few suggested that the CFW sponsor more than one of these readings a year.
- iv. Rachel Chen announced the progress of the “Donation Education” project designed by students in her department entitled the “Volunteer State of Mind.” They are close to the merchandising stage of the project.