

Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 3rd November 2011

1. Call to order

Mary Papke called to order the regular meeting of the **Commission for Women** at **12:00 noon** on **Thursday, 3rd November, 2011**, in Hodges Library Conference Room 605.

2. Roll call

The following persons were present:

Heather Mason
Leigh Schlactus
Mary Papke
Taryn Norman
Margaret Crawford
Caitlin Nolan
Jenny Moshak
Alicia Faciane
Thura Mack
Rachel Chen

Ashleigh Moyer
Kierstyn Lamour
Leigh Shoemaker

3. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes from Thursday, 6th October, 2011, were approved.

4. Open issues

a) Report by the Chair

- i. The Commission heads will meet with Susan Martin to discuss the inclusion of a diversity and civility statement on all syllabi.
- ii. The Commission heads met with the Alumni Association in order to promote the Commissions' roles in the UTK community and their emphasis on a broader conception of diversity, as represented by the new motto: "The New Diversity at UTK." There are roughly 70,000 members in the Knox County Alumni chapter. While alumni cannot serve on the Commission for Women, we could create a position to bridge communication between the Commission for Women and the Alumni Association that is similar to the ex-officio role that Eric Read serves for the Commission for LGBT People.
- iii. An update on the progress of hiring a Diversity Officer on campus is forthcoming.
- iv. Upper administration would like a stronger statement from the Commission for Women regarding faculty/student romantic relationships.
- v. Mary Papke approved a \$100 request for sponsorship from the Creative Writing Program for Sarah Marcus's (*Girls to the Front: The True Story of the Riot Grrrl Revolution*)

campus visit to take place on Tuesday, 8th November at 5:15pm, Alumni Memorial Building, Room 32.

b) Report of Committees and Faculty Senate

- i. Jenny Moshak reported for the Commission for LGBT People. The Outstanding Seminar was well received and well attended.
- ii. Leigh Schlactus reported from the Women's Coordinating Council. Take Back the Night was a success, especially keynote speaker Angela Rose's reception, and the forty-five minutes of testimonials.
- iii. Mary Papke reported that the Committee on Violence Against Women is disbanding and its purview will now fall under the three Commissions in an effort to centralize and cohere our efforts against violence in the UTK community and to better represent a broader understanding of violence.
- iv. Heather Mason reported from the Work Life Balance committee. The Work Life Balance study meeting was canceled, but data continues to be collected from the Senate and Commissions. The next meeting is scheduled for December 6th.

c) Other Business

- i. The call for HERS candidates has gone out on the DDDH listserv and via *Tennessee Today*.
- ii. Jenny Moshak reported that the Council for Diversity and Interculturalism (CDI) is not satisfied with the Employee Engagement Survey because the category information does not take into account broader definitions of diversity, and they are equally disappointed by the Administration's response that the methods cannot be changed because the survey is administered by an outside group. Jenny Moshak, Vincent Anfara, and Marva Rudolph are charged with writing a letter (endorsed by the CDI, the Commissions and the Faculty Senate) to the Chancellor expressing their concerns.