

Commission for Women

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 7, 2013

1. Call to Order

Mary Papke called to order the regular meeting of the Commission for Women at 12:00 noon on Thursday, November 7, 2013, in Hodges Library Conference Room 605.

2. Roll Call

The following people were present:

Rachel Chen, Joy De Sensi, Teresa Fisher, Hillary Fouts, Marie Hartke, Thura Mack, Stephanie Metz, Ashleigh Moyer, Mary Papke, Rosa E. Thomas, and Cheryl Travis.

3. Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from October 3, 2013, were approved.

4. Open Issues

a) Report by the Chair

- i) Mary Papke reported having a very productive meeting with Vice Chancellor for Diversity Rickey Hall. He suggested ways the Commission for Women might further serve the university. In particular, he suggested the Commission for Women might reach out to other UT or SEC schools to see if they have their own organizations similar to Commission for Women and invite them to UT to speak to the Commissioners.
- ii) The Chair will amend the Commission for Women's bylaws and forward them to the other commissioners for them to review.
- iii) With the deadline approaching for application to the HERS Institute, Mary Papke asked the commissioners to encourage those interested to apply.

b) Report of Committees and Commissions

- i) The other Commissions are amending their bylaws and working to plan programs on campus, such as Home 'Coming Out.'
- ii) Faculty Senate passed a slightly altered version of the proposed faculty/student relationship policy. Cheryl Travis reported that the policy does not strictly prohibit these relationships.
- iii) Cheryl Travis suggested that the Commission for Women draft a letter to the Provost and Chancellor to make this a system-wide policy in light of the fact that other Top 25 schools have this kind of policy and also in consideration of the economic fallout from these issues.

c) Other Business

- i) Rachel Chen noted that the 2013 Leadership Summit on Sustainable Quality of Life held on October 3 was a great success with 250 attendees across campus. Dynamic discussions were held among the audience and invited Commissioners. She also reported that due to unforeseeable changes in schedules, the 2013 Women's Leadership Summit on Sustainable Quality of Life scheduled for early November was regrettably postponed. The prestigious event will be rescheduled and announced.
- ii) The Commission raised the question of whether women's history will be included in the new building constructed following the destruction of Strong Hall. This building housed the first women's dorms and its halls were named after the first five coeds at the university. Mary Papke said she would ask Susan Martin and Rickey Hall to investigate whether there had been any discussion of this issue.
- iii) Rachel Chen reported that she had attended the UT Faculty Women's Club. They have a number of upcoming events and they would welcome involvement and attendance from the larger UT community.
- iv) Mary Papke observed that the Commissioners will need to start planning events to hold during Women's History Month. She also emphasized that it will be important to schedule events at a time when many students might be available to attend.
 - a) Cheryl Travis proposed Marcia Coyle as a possible future speaker.
 - b) Several other suggestions were offered, such as hosting a panel on whether or not to go to graduate school. This panel might include speakers from the College of Veterinary Medicine, which has a high rate of female graduate students. Other possible topics included being pregnant on campus, library collections and women's issues, as well as a possible presentation from the S.E.E. Center for undergraduates.
 - c) Rosa E. Thomas also asked about having a woman CEO, such as the CEO of Pepsi, come to speak on campus in the future.

5. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.