

**Commission for Women**  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, December 5, 2013

1. Call to Order

Mary Papke called to order the regular meeting of the Commission for Women at 12:00 noon on Thursday, December 5, 2013, in Hodges Library Conference Room 605.

2. Roll Call

The following people were present:

Rachel Chen, Hillary Fouts, Stephanie Metz, Taryn Norman, Mary Papke, Cynthia Peterson, Wendy Syer, Rosa Thomas, and Cheryl Travis.

3. Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from November 7, 2013, were approved.

4. Open Issues

a) Report by the Chair

- i. Mary Papke reported that two candidates have been chosen for the HERS Institute out of a group of six strong and diverse candidates.
- ii. Vice Chancellor for Diversity Rickey Hall may hold a brown bag lunch during Women's History Month to discuss women's issues on campus from his perspective.

b) Report of Committees and Commissions

- i. Mary Papke noted Commission for LGBT's concern with faculty sick leave policies for those who are not married.
- ii. Rachel Chen shared that Commission for Blacks will be organizing a human library. The event will be interactive, allowing participants of different races, ethnicities, genders, and economic backgrounds to share their stories in innovative ways and promote dialogue with others.
- iii. Commission for Blacks is also holding the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Black Issues Conference on February 1, 2014.

c) Other Business

- i. Hillary Fouts reported plans made toward possibly holding a panel on work/life balance and pregnancy and parental leave during Women's History Month. Possible speakers might include John Zomchick, someone who could address graduate students' situations with these issues, and someone from Arts and Sciences Advising.

- ii. Rosa Thomas proposed a panel on sleep and sleep issues also to be held during Women's History Month.
- iii. Stephanie Metz will contact women creative writers in the English department to hold a poetry and fiction reading, as well as discuss what it is like to be a female creative writer for Women's History Month.
- iv. Cynthia Peterson shared her work on applying for a grant from the National Science Foundation for Advance, a program which would create initiatives to support women faculty in the STEM fields throughout their careers.
- v. Cynthia Peterson might organize a brown bag lunch geared towards undergraduates and graduate students discussing what it is like to be a woman in the sciences.

5. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.