

## President's Commission on the Status of Women

### Minutes

1/12/16

Submitted by: Jessica Dutille

PCSW Members Present: Gail Carr, Jessica Dutille (Chair), Meredith Gagnon, Kayla Grimes, Mary Beth Ray, Alice Staples, Ava Tyler

### Agenda

1. Discuss NCG URSA Report
2. Discuss feedback from open forum and online survey
3. Diversity Institute April 9th
4. Discuss meeting days/times for next semester

The meeting began at 12:30pm.

Jess welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

Introductions

#### 1. Discuss NCG URSA Report

Jess explained that PCSW was ranked in quintile 5. She mentioned the email that Chantalle sent out, which noted that multiple women related groups were rated at the bottom.

Alice noted that the criteria used to evaluate the reports didn't necessarily include women's issues in outlined goals, which could have contributed to the ranking.

Mary Beth agreed that this could be one reason why a number of women's activities were ranked low.

Alice mentioned that it is her understanding that every program has to align with at least one cluster. What does that mean for PCSW?

Possible clusters for PCSW:

- Health and Human Enrichment
- Education, Democracy, and Social Change
- Justice and Insecurity

Mary Beth spoke about our charge. Events like the Young Women's Conference (YWC) and Theo Kalikow Awards are an important aspect of our work. Other groups on campus are not holding such events.

Alice and Jess agreed that celebratory events raise awareness and is an important aspect of what the commission does.

Kayla noted that the YWC could move forward, especially with more student involvement. How can we pull students in with these initiatives?

Jess suggested that we invite another student to sit on the commission (at least one).

Alice suggested that the YWC could belong to a cluster.

The commission discussed the cluster model.

Ava spoke about how clusters have the potential to be powerful for recruitment of incoming students who have a broad idea of what they want to study.

## **2. Discuss feedback from open forum and online survey**

Meredith explained that it was beneficial hearing concerns at the open forum.

Gail noted that she learned that we have a lot of work to do.

Kayla explained that the open forum raised awareness of commission, which led to her interest in being a member.

### ***Emerging issues that committee wants to address:***

- Concerns about the SAGE Center/Office of Community Development and Diversity
  - o Jess will contact Jill Martineau and invite her to our next meeting.
- Childcare- limitation in access and affordability
  - o Kayla suggested that we put together a list of childcare providers with ratings- students could help with this.
  - o Jess explained the resource guide that the commission discussed putting together in response to residential life and childcare issues.
  - o Gail noted that President Birx was very supportive of looking at increasing childcare options at our initial meeting with him.
- Flexible work arrangements
  - o work schedules
  - o comp time
  - o working from home
  - o institutional guidelines for flexible work environments
  - o Gail suggested that someone from HR come to discuss this with the commission. Jess will reach out to Caryn Ines.
  - o Alice noted that policies are different across the USNH system.

## **3. Diversity Institute April 9<sup>th</sup>**

Student, Forest Steinberg was in touch with Jess in regards to The 12th annual Diversity Institute (information below) to see if the PCSW would be interested in being a sponsor. Jess will ask Forest for additional information and will invite her to our next meeting. We will vote on sponsorship then.

### **Event Info**

The 12th annual Diversity Institute is approaching rapidly. Please save the date!

Topic: Addressing Sexual Violence and Vulnerability Among Diverse Populations

Date: April 9th, 2016 from 9am to 4pm

Every year, the Counselor Education and School Psychology Department hosts the Diversity Institute. This is an opportunity for students to learn about a diversity issue from expert panelists and facilitators, which can help deepen students' understanding of some of the cultural issues that their future students and clients may face. Past topics discussed during the event include working with people who identify as LGBTQ+, working with new Americans, incorporating spirituality into counseling, and white privilege and racial relations. The 12th annual Diversity Institute at Plymouth State University will focus on increasing awareness of sexual violence in vulnerable populations. Sexual violence can encompass a range of experiences including verbal harassment, assault, rape, and human trafficking. The vulnerability experienced by marginalized populations can be exploited through sexual violence and these experiences can have a dramatic impact on mental health and wellness. It is our goal to increase awareness for attendees with the hope of improving their professional competency when working with people from vulnerable and underrepresented populations who have experienced sexual violence.

### **Pricing**

Option 1: \$50-\$100 minimum to sponsor (name will be on the booklet each registered guest receives)

Option 2: \$100-\$200 minimum to sponsor (name will be on the booklet each registered guest receives) and to include a coupon in the packet each guest receives

If you would like to include a coupon as per the second option, we will need you to supply the coupons and we will make sure to put 1 coupon in each packet per registered guest

### **4. Discuss meeting days/times for next semester**

The group decided to stay with our current meeting schedule: second Tuesday of the month from 12:30-1:30pm.

Next Meeting: **February 9<sup>th</sup>**.