

President's Commission on the Status of Women

Minutes

11/10/15

Submitted by: Jessica Dutille

Present: Gail Carr, Jessica Dutille (Chair), Chantalle Forgues, Lauren Lavigne, Mary Beth Ray, Alice Staples, Wendy Palmquist

Agenda

1. Update on NH Young Women's Conference
2. Meeting with President Birx
3. Work/Life Balance
4. Theo Kalikow
5. Lactation Room

The meeting began at 12:30pm.

Jess welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Update on NH Young Women's Conference

Mary Beth gave an update on the NH Young Women's Conference. We had the largest group ever. Hayley LaPoint from WMUR was one of the presenters, and the girls really enjoyed connecting with her. The feedback from the surveys were positive. The committee is thinking that we will move the conference to spring. The next YWC will be held in the spring of 2017.

Jess stressed the fact that the survey responses were really positive and thanked everyone for their help in hosting the event.

2. Meeting with President Birx.

Lauren explained that we had a nice conversation with President Birx on October 26th. He was interested in learning about our work and experience on campus. He was supportive of our initiatives and processes. We had a conversation about how to make jobs better on campus. He spoke about vision and goals.

Jess mentioned that he clearly understands how hard everyone works on campus, but he explained that he feels we could be spending less energy and work more intentionally on certain things. She also noted the conversation about the S.A.G.E. Center and the new Community Development and Diversity position. Jess suggested that the commission think about ways we can best support Jill in her role on campus in regards to women's issues.

Gail noted that one thing that came up in our conversation with President Birx and Vice President Hundrieser is how we reach out to the campus community to gain feedback/concerns about emerging issues.

Wendy suggested that at the beginning of the semester we could put out a call for issues asking people to contact a member of the committee. We could also announce our meeting times.

Gail suggested that we hold a time for the campus community to come and share concerns/issues. She also noted that President Birx was very interested about the hours of the Center for Young Children and Families. He mentioned that he would like to extend the hours of operation.

Conversation about childcare issues.

3. Work Life Balance

Jess passed along Jenny's regrets for not being able to make our meeting, as well as her feedback.

- It seems like a good time to make recommendations in regards to work/life blend. President Birx seemed really supportive.
- Consider having one working group meeting per month and one open session per month for anyone to voice concerns.

Alice mentioned that considering what happened in Missouri, this is an important time for President's to address campus concerns.

Chantalle and Lauren indicated that they feel it is a good time to bring forth recommendations in regards to work life/blend/balance.

Gail noted that many staff members have to come in on holidays and weekends for open houses, etc.

Gail suggested that we host an open forum before the end of the semester.

Wendy suggested that it be at our December meeting.

Chantalle suggested that we also provide a survey as a way to submit comments anonymous.

Lauren talked about the PAT Welfare committee survey that just went out.

The group decided that our December 8th meeting would be dedicated to an open community forum to hear feedback/concerns. Jess will send out invitations through the faculty, PAT, and OS groups, as well as through PSU FYI.

Chantalle suggested that we open it up to any concerns/topics

- Work Life Balance /Workload
- Discrimination/Harassment
- Childcare
- Maternity and Paternity leave

Light refreshments will be provided at the forum, and **all participating PCSW are asked to bring a food item to share.**

Alice will check on the availability of the Lamson Tower room for the forum.

4. Theo Kalikow Awards Ceremony

Conversation on Theo Kalikow Awards Ceremony.

Theme of Women's History Month: *Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government.*

Suggested Speakers: Maggie Hassan, Kelly Ayotte, Jeanne Shaheen, Annie Kuster

A panel format was suggested and a possible moderator is Sheryl Shirley.

Alice will look into Heritage for March 31st.

5. Lactation Room

Chantalle asked if we wanted to ask for another Lactation room. She suggested that the Silver Center would be a good space for that, due to the fact that it is open to the public. Chantalle will look into it.

Jess asked if it would make sense to put a lactation room in ALLWell North.

The commission will continue to work on this.

The meeting ended at 1:30pm.

Next Meeting: December 8th.