

**President's Commission on the Status of Women**  
**Minutes**  
**2/9/16**

Submitted by: Jessica Dutille

PCSW Members Present: Gail Carr, Jessica Dutille (Chair), Chantalle Forgues, Kathleen Herzig, Lauren Lavigne, Wendy Palmquist, Callie Pomeroy, Alice Staples, Forest Steinberg (guest speaker)

**Agenda**

1. Diversity Institute April 9<sup>th</sup>
2. Title IX
3. Theo Kalikow Awards
4. Additional Conversation

The meeting began at 12:30pm.

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

Introductions

**1. Diversity Institute April 9<sup>th</sup>**

Forest Steinberg, a PSU graduate student, discussed the Diversity Institute that is taking place on April 9<sup>th</sup>. She asked that the commission consider sponsoring the event.

The Diversity Institute is hosted by the graduate counseling programs. About 150 people attended last year, which included students, faculty, and community partners such as Voices Against Violence, Genesis, and CASA.

This year the event is addressing the increase of sexual violence among diverse populations. The event is a great opportunity for participants to improve professional competencies when working with vulnerable populations experiencing sexual violence. A number of speakers are scheduled to attend, and participants can receive CEU's. Anyone is welcome to register at no cost.

Forest explained that the goal is to grow the event each year. They currently have some sponsorships from local businesses.

Lauren offered to look into helping to promote the event through Athletics.

Information sent by Forest:

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

**Attendance at this event is mandatory for all students.**

**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.

Current PCSW balance: \$1878

Jess suggested that the PCSW contribute a \$100 sponsorship of the Diversity Institute.

All were in favor.

## **2. Title IX**

Jess explained that Debbie Grotheer asked if the PCSW receives reports about Title IX incidents. Currently we do not have clear access to this information. Should we be more involved so that we can provide support?

Chantalle explained that historically Tim Keefe preserved information, and he would only give very general information when asked. She explained that Jeff Furlone is more open to sharing information in a way that doesn't infringe on confidentiality.

Katie met with Janette Wiggett who asked if the PCSW would be interested in being a part of the Title IX process. In regards to the URSA report this would help us distinguish a role for the PCSW.

Jess will reach out to Janette and invite her to a meeting to discuss this opportunity further.

Chantalle explained that the victims now have additional choices in regards to the process than they did in the past. They can choose to have the Dean of Students decide on the case, or they could have it go in front of a board, which the PCSW could help with.

Katie explained that Jeff and Janette are promoting more reporting going forward.

## **3. Theo Kalikow Awards**

Heritage is confirmed for the Theo Kalikow Awards Ceremony to take place on March 31<sup>st</sup> from 3:30-5pm. The theme of Women's History Month: *Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government.*

Jess explained that Thad Guldbrandsen reached out to Maggie Hassan, Kelly Ayotte, Jeanne Shaheen, and Annie Kuster in regards to speaking at the event. No one could confirm at this time.

Jess suggested that we think of someone on campus for the keynote, and in the event that one or more of our elected officials make it, that person could introduce them.

Chantalle suggested Sheryl Shirley. Alice will reach out to Sheryl.

Lauren will reach out to Stephanie Halter in regards to the call for nominations.

Deadline for submission this year will be March 7<sup>th</sup>. Our next meeting we be dedicated to reviewing the nominations and deciding on recipients.

Katie noted that we have nominations from last year to revisit.

Lauren will reach out to the President's Office, the Provost's Office, the Vice President of Student Affairs Office, and the Vice President for Advancement Office.

Callie offered to help with printing the certificates, as she works in the Print Shop.

Katie volunteered to purchase frames.

#### **4. Additional Discussion about URSA and Cluster Formation**

A number of women's related activities were rated in the quintile 5.

Conversation about women's athletes in quintile 5.

Katie noted that the rating process wasn't ideal.

Chantalle asked if the PCSW would be attached to a cluster.

The group discussed the information we have received thus far in regards to how clusters are being developed.

It is unclear how the PCSW is going to fit into the new strategic cluster system. We did brainstorm clusters that are directly linked to the work of the PCSW at the last meeting. However, the commission serves the entire campus, so we would be linked in some way to all clusters.

#### **5. History of the President's Commission on the Status of Women**

Alice presented the information she received from the 1991 Task Force that developed the President's Commission on the Status of Women.

Next Meeting: **March 8<sup>th</sup>**.