

President's Commission on the Status of Women

Minutes

5/10/16

Submitted by: Jessica Dutille

PCSW Members Present: Gail Carr, Jessica Dutille (Chair), Chantalle Forgues, Meredith Gagnon, Kayla Gaudette, Kathleen Herzig, Anne Jung-Mathews, Lauren Lavigne, Wendy Palmquist, Callie Pomeroy, Ava Tyler

Guest: Linda Birx

Agenda

1. Priorities for PCSW
2. Meeting Schedule
3. Leadership for 2016-17 Academic Year

The meeting began at 12:30pm.

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

1. Priorities for PCSW

Jess suggested that the commission generate a list of issues to be addressed that have been identified through the open forum, the survey, and through conversations on campus. There might be ways to work on advancing issues over the summer months; however, the list will give us the opportunity to hit the ground running in the fall.

Deeper priority of LGBTG supports

- Loss of identified space/SAGE Center concerns
- Katie and Wendy discussed the rainbow cords that were distributed at Lavender Graduation, and graduates are planning on wearing them. There is an effort to ensure that cords represent academic achievement. Going forward there is a number of ideas of how to integrate an academic component into earning the cords.
- Wendy noted that the SAGE Center use to be involved in student orientation. What kinds of activities that SAGE use to host are going to be continued? Title IX does have a presence.

Residential options for students

- Students are eligible to live on campus, however, children are not.
- We did make a recommendation to Vice President Jim Hundrieser, but we need to follow up.
- Gail noted that the PCSW could help provide resources.

Work Life Balance/Parenting Support

- Anne noted that the Center for Young Children and Families Center has a limited schedule, as a result of being under strict financial constraints.
- Inconsistencies among supervisors
- Lauren noted that it is difficult for employees to go to their supervisors and discuss schedule challenges in this current climate on campus. Need HR support for this.
- Katie suggested that we disseminate information about benefits of flexibility for morale.
- Kayla noted that her husband works at SNHU, and employees there are given pre tax stipends to support childcare or elderly care.
- Lauren explained that we do have flexible spending that we could use for daycare.
- Meredith explained that we discussed putting together a resource guide for childcare options. We need to revisit this.
- Kayla suggested that we might consider helping to facilitate childcare for event guests. She also explained that we consider addressing parking for expectant moms.
- Chantalle noted that the lactation room in Hyde hasn't seemed to be missed.
- Wendy explained that renovations on campus include gender free restrooms. The Welcome Center does not have a gender free restroom.
- It would be a great have a lactation room in the HUB. Memorial would also be a great space.
- Katie noted that it would be good to have a lactation room that is not gender specific.
- Callie said she would be interested in helping find space in the HUB. The bathrooms next to the HUB would be a possibility. Wendy suggested that one could be a gender free bathroom and the other a lactation room.

NH Young Women's Conference

- Katie suggested that we set a date based on other events.
- Lauren noted the first Young Women's Conference was held close to spring break.
- Workgroup: Katie, Lauren, Mary Beth, Ava, Kayla, Meredith, Jess
- Kayla suggested that we team up with the Women as Leaders course that is taught by Nancy Puglisi and Barbara McCahan, as well Becky Brown from KSC.

Theo Kalikow Awards

- Lauren noted that the ceremony this year was great, but she feels we need to get information about it out sooner.
- How do we enhance it?
- Katie feels that we need a calendar for campus that highlights all events. Linda and Ava explained that work in being done on the campus.

Website Enhancement

- Mary Beth suggested that we add content and additional resources on the website.

Opportunities for Women on Campus

- Meredith suggested that we host forums for women on campus. Chantalle would like to be involved in that.
- Lauren explained that a group is working with the Museum of the White Mountains to host a Women's Summit in the fall- talk about leadership and philanthropy.
- Kayla suggested teaming up with Love Your Body Week. There doesn't seem to be as much support for individuals with eating disorders as we had in the past.

- Jess explained her experience in regards to this as an undergraduate student at PSU. She feels this is an important issue.

2. Meeting Schedule

Wendy noted that we need a bigger room for meeting space.

Lauren suggested having lunch together in June. Jess suggested a potluck.

Linda offered the space in her home for meetings. She explained that the property by the President's house might be acquired, and it might be a good property to utilize. Linda noted that we are behind on some of these issues in comparison to other institutions.

3. Leadership for 2016-17 Academic Year

Jess explained that it has been her pleasure and privilege to serve as the Chair of the PCSW over the past two years. She thanked everyone for their support and explained that she feels it is time for a new chair, though she would like to stay on the commission.

Lauren offered to be a co-chair.

Next Meeting: June 14th