Presidents Commission on the Status of Women
Tuesday, October 8th, 2019
12:30-1:30 pm, Lamson Tower Room

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Jess Dutille Casey Krafton, Wendy Palmquist, Melinda Barnsley, Katie Gaebel, Hannah Hounsell, Sarah Donahue, Alice Staples

• Welcome
• Young Women’s Conference updates
  o Registration for the event is open. We should all try to distribute flyers (Jess will send file)
  o Saturday November 2nd - setup is at 9:00 AM (event ends at 2:30 PM)
  o Registration begins at 9:30 AM
  o Local partners will be present to staff resource tables 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
  o Tina E from Voices Against Violence will be our keynote speaker
    ▪ Tina received the Theo Kalico award – perhaps in the future, we can invite award recipients about being keynote speakers for the conference
  o 5 workshops are planned – the working group is still working with schedule
    ▪ Healthy relationships with Voices Against Violence
    ▪ “Love Your Body Workshop” with Pemi-Youth Center
    ▪ Advocacy-focused workshop for NAMI with Girls Inc
    ▪ Self-Care workshop
    ▪ Working with Black Student Union about putting together a workshop about empowerment for WoC
  o Lunch at Prospect
  o Mixed Emotions will sing at the event
  o We talked about having an “empowerment quilt” or “affirmations wall” for when the young women register
    ▪ Katie will take the lead on the empowerment quilt: we are taking fabric donations (cotton, solid colors please)
    ▪ Jess will take the lead on the affirmations wall
  o We talked about having Bingo/ prizes for the participants: donations of PSU swag are welcome
    ▪ Melinda will reach out to admissions for swag and viewbooks
  o Sarah will look into possibly getting some funds to donate to the conference for snacks, materials, etc.
  o Donations of snacks and breakfast items are welcome
• Open Forum Survey updates
  o Casey & Hannah have been working on the open forum survey to be distributed to the campus community
• Their plan is to have a simple online survey for campus members to voice concerns related to women/ gender equality and to open the February 11, 2020 PCWS meeting so that campus members can voice their concerns
• The PCWS will review and disseminate the shared concerns with the appropriate constituents on campus
• At the meeting, we discussed the need to keep the survey short to encourage response, since responses from 2016-17 were low
  • Updating/ revisiting our mission
    • Jess & Casey brought forward their suggestion to update the language of our mission in order to make the language more gender inclusive
    • We discussed the use of “male and female,” “men and women” and “women” in our mission, deciding on instances when it should be changed and when it was appropriate (changes below are in bold)

The President’s Commission on the Status of Women was first established by President William Farrell in 1991. It is comprised of female and male PSU community members including undergraduate, non-traditional, and graduate students, as well as Operating Staff, PAT’s and Faculty.

The Mission of the PCSW is six-fold:
• To identify broad-based and special concerns for women’s issues and issues of gender equality at Plymouth State University.
• To create and recommend policies to improve the climate for women and guarantee an environment of equal educational and employment opportunities.
• To collaborate with existing organizations to promote a non-sexist and nondiscriminatory environment.
• To inform the University community on the status of women by collecting data, initiating and supporting outreach programs, and by preparing and disseminating informational publications.
• To help women develop their skills, continue their education and increase networking by suggesting, and assisting in, the implementation of informational and educational programs.
• To stimulate thinking regarding the basic social changes occurring in our society as newly defined roles for all genders emerge.

• Jess motioned to update the language of our mission in order to be more gender inclusive. Melinda seconded the motion. The PCSW passed the motion.
• We discussed the need to update the lactation station in the library, since the posters/ flyers are outdated
o Wendy checked on the status of the lactation station in Hyde, which is still there but it is unclear where the key for the room lives
• Update with Planned Parenthood
  o Planned Parenthood had reached out to be a resource table for the Young Women’s Conference, but Jess inquired about whether they could provide resources for middle and high school girls, but PP only had resources for college students
• Our next meeting is on November 12th from 12:30-1:30 PM