

PLEASE CIRCULATE

September 16, 1987

MINUTES

Information Network
August 19, 1987

Introduction. Anne Truax was the guest speaker for the August Information Network session. Truax is the director of the Minnesota Women's Center (MWC). The center is part of University Counseling Services.

Purpose. MWC acts as a resource center which provides personal, educational, and career support services to University and community women.

Services:

- offers its services to all people regardless of sex, race, creed, sexual preference, color, national origin, disability, age, or veteran status
- offers women-centered counseling and support groups to University students
- provides counseling and therapy groups for women who have been raped, assaulted, or harassed
- acts as an advocate for women students if they have been sexually harassed or discriminated against
- works to improve the University climate for women, in and out of the classroom
- offers the Carol E. Macpherson Scholarship for women re-entering the University
- maintains an extensive information and referral service to on- and off-campus agencies working for women
- provides students with opportunities to become involved with women's issues through a variety of women's organizations at local, state, and national levels
- organizes and assists with conferences and workshops on topics of concern to women

Background. The Minnesota Women's Center was founded in 1960 as part of the "Minnesota Plan: Continuing Education for Women". The plan, the first of its kind in the nation, was funded by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation and was the parent of two current University programs—Continuing Education for Women and the Minnesota Women's Center.

Since 1975 and increasingly in the 80's, sexual harassment has been a major focus for MWC; of the 117 women and 4 males counseled last year, 35-45% received sexual harassment and violence counseling.

The Minnesota Women's Center is one of several women's programs on campus. MWC works closely with the office of Continuing Education for Women. Truax is on the board of the Women's Studies Program in CLA and the Women & International Development Research & Information Center. MWC has gone beyond a student affairs program and has gained national recognition.

The University has a large group of feminist scholars and offers a Bachelor of Arts degree through CLA and a minor in Feminist Studies at the graduate level. The only other school in the Big 10 that offers an Advanced Feminist Studies program is the University of Michigan.

MWC is preparing for the National Women Studies Conference to be held in Minneapolis in June 1988. Focus for the conference will be on American Indian women.

Staff. Staffing consists of two full-time staff, the director and a secretary, and 4-5 part-time graduate student counselors.

Location/Hours/Telephone. MWC is located in room 5 Eddy Hall. Hours are Monday through Friday 8-4:30. The telephone number is 625-2874.

Next Meeting: Tours of Walter Library, 9/23 and 9/24.
Advance reservations are necessary by calling
Jan Bobrowske, 5-0873.
Meet at 12:10 p.m. in 110 Walter Library for each tour.

JB:1605L

cc: Abbott, Armstrong, Lewis, Misenko, Preus