

Commission on Women Minutes for 02/23/05

Members present: Deborah Petersen-Perlman, Maribeth Overland, Joy Michalicek, Julie Westlund, Denise Cater, Martha Eberhard, Stacey Stark, Cindy Christian, Amy Meredith
Members excused: Linda Klint, Lisa ZumHofe, Mary Cameron

I. Review Minutes for the Commission on Women 2/9/05: Julie moved approval, Martha seconded. Minutes approved as written.

II. Report from Budget & Grants Committee

Julie sent an announcement about grant deadlines for spring. Joy has printed flyers advertising the spring and fall deadlines. They should be distributed by the end of this week. Stacey has posted these dates on the web site.

III. Update on Child Care

The Child Care Advisory Council met with Director Leann Scalia, who made a Powerpoint presentation on the status of the Center. The presentation indicated that the Center will run \$80,000 in the hole on an annual basis. Ultimately, this money will probably be recouped from increases in student tuition and fees. Additionally, Leann stated that faculty and staff have top priority for placements. Students are next in line. Apparently, AFSCME and MEA are giving money to support the Center. Joy brought up the history of DTA funding which had stipulated that students have first priority regarding placements at the Center. Leann indicated that she would revisit the priority list once Joy had recovered the documents which outline this history. After finding the relevant documents, Joy wrote a letter to Leann emphasizing that students should not be behind faculty and staff, but should have the same priority standing. Joy emphasized the University's mission regarding service to students. Amy noted that Leann's approach to the center is very business-focused. Joy will send a copy to Dean Deputy. The scheduling issue remains contentious.

IV. Update on By-Laws

Martha & Denise raised a number of issues for the Commission's consideration. The by-laws allow for a vice-chair, and yet we are currently without one. M & D recommended that we separate budgetary responsibilities from the Budget and Grants Committee and assign those responsibilities to a treasurer, or to the vice chair. The Grants Committee would then be responsible ONLY for promotion and review of grants. Each committee should be responsible for proposing and monitoring its own budget. At the end of the year, each committee would then make its own budget report.

M & D also reported that there are some internal inconsistencies within the By-Laws which need to be addressed.

The By-laws committee is charged with formulating proposed by-laws amendments regarding the position of the Vice Chair (making sure we have one and adding budgetary oversight responsibilities to the vice chair's duties) and the separation of budgetary responsibilities from the Budget and Grants Committee. They will bring these amendments to our next meeting (or distribute them via email so we can have a brief discussion and vote). M & D also asked if we

wanted to incorporate a line item for Women's History month. Here are our notes from the 12/08/04 meeting: "2. Women's History month promotion: It's a natural relationship. We agreed that Women's Studies should write a grant if they want support for speakers, travel, etc. We will commit up to \$300 for promotional materials."

Another issue raised concerned Take Our Children to Work. Here are the notes from 12/8/04: "III. Follow-up on Take Our Children to Work Day: We need to discuss this further--I don't think we reviewed the materials Susana forwarded to us. Let's pick this up as an agenda item next week. I have a memo from Judith Karon dated 5/3/02 which raises some of the same issues we're currently facing. Additionally, Susana sent data about attendance and expenses for the past two years." This issue needs to be resolved. Let's address this at our next meeting.

IV. Update on Leadership

Maribeth reported that we're halfway through the program. There have been two formal sessions and two lunches. Thanks to Stacey's suggestion, there's an email alias for the cohort to dialogue about concerns. The committee will develop an evaluation tool in March to assess the cohort's responses to the program. Maribeth reported that Teri Kronzer took the Leadership agenda/outline to the Chancellor at UWS and recommended that a similar program be implemented on their campus.

IV. Update on Programming

Amy gave the Programming report prepared by Lisa:

1. We'll keep the same menu as last year. Linda will work with catering.
2. Flowers will be ordered from Sam's Club and Engwall.
3. Entertainment and speaker options are under discussion. The committee favored inviting Rabbi Amy Bernstein to be the featured speaker and to ask if the The Three Altos, of which she is a part, would want to provide entertainment. Deborah will extend the invitation. We agreed that we would ask her to talk about The Essential Elements of Women's Journeys (Balance, health, leadership, spirituality and fun). Deborah will inquire about their fees.
4. Question for the Commission: Do we want to have an evening reception?

Here are some notes from our meeting on 5/19/04: "Joy reported that only four people showed up at the evening event. We discussed the cost(-in)effectiveness of this program. The proposal was made to offer date-specific vouchers to interested parties next year. The theme would be 'have dinner on us'."

This is from our retreat on 8/9/04: "We will ask Programming to conduct a survey to assess interest in an evening program."

Here's the bottom line: This issue is not yet resolved. We need to reach a conclusion.

5. Members of the Leadership Cohort will be receiving certificates (and possibly mementos) at the luncheon.
6. We need to extend the luncheon invitation to Linda Larson and Chancellor Martin--Deborah will do this. Deborah will also ask if the Chancellor would like to offer words of greeting.

VII. Update on Student Outreach: No report.

VIII. Round the Room/AOB

A. Linda Larson Award

We agreed we should have a flyer--Joy will do this. We agreed we would also use umd business announce and the CW lists Denise has compiled. Stacey will post information about the Linda Larson award on the web site, including bios of past winners. We agreed that we would have a deadline of 4/1. Here's the email we sent last year:

PLEASE FORWARD TO YOUR DEPARTMENTS. NOMINATION DEADLINE: April 9, 2004

Please consider making a nomination for the Linda Larson-Commission on Women Woman of the Year Award. Feel free to contact the Commission on Women (comwomen@d.umn.edu) if you have any questions.

Linda Larson-Commission on Women Woman of the Year Award University of Minnesota Duluth
To all University of Minnesota Duluth community members: The Linda Larson Commission on Women Woman of the Year Award was created in 2002 to honor women at UMD who exemplify going above and beyond to benefit women at UMD. Following in the legacy of Linda Larson, recipients of this award are making a difference in the lives of women at UMD and in our community. Their contributions to women have long-lasting impact of favorable climate change.

Our two past recipients are Linda Larson, who received the award named in her honor in 2002, and Virginia Katz, who received the award in 2003. Linda Larson worked at UMD for over 25 years. Throughout her career she worked to expand women's athletics on campus and was integral to the university's compliance with Title IX when it was adopted. She worked diligently to improve the position of the Women's Resource and Action Center on campus. She has also done extensive work for women outside the university by volunteer work and sitting on the boards for the Northern Pine Girl Scout Council and the Duluth YWCA. Her efforts have made UMD's women's athletics what they are today. It is this type of legacy for women that this award is meant to honor.

We would like to invite all members of the UMD community (men and women, students, faculty, staff and alumni) to nominate any current or former UMD faculty or staff woman for the Linda Larson-Commission on Women Woman of the Year Award.

The nomination should be in the form of a letter that includes the following: 1. The name of the woman being nominated including contact information for her; 2. A description of the activities of this woman that show outstanding contribution to the continuing improvement of women's experiences at UMD and in Duluth at large; and 3. The name and contact information for the person(s) nominating this individual. We encourage all UMD community members to make a nomination for this award. Let's build upon the legacy of Linda Larson through the encouragement of other women on campus to continue improving the climate for women. Past recipients should not be nominated for three years after their most recent award year. Please deliver nomination letters to Lisa ZumHofe, of the UMD Commission on Women (231 Humanities Building) by April 9, 2004. This award will be presented at the Commission on Women's Spring Lunch on May 5, 2004.

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B. Elections

Information on elections will go out at the beginning of March and again at the beginning of April.

C. Round the room:

Denise announced that the Chronicle of Higher Education hosted a online discussion about issues facing female faculty, including child care on 2/23 at 1 p.m.

Cindy announced that Alworth Brown Bag presentations begin tomorrow at noon. At least two of the presentations are focused on women, and two are Holocaust-themed.

Joy announced that Facilities is done with the Child Care Center remodeling. Walls are up and it is possible to take a tour. The final inspection is scheduled for next week.

Deborah announced this year's Holocaust Commemoration Events: The Pianist--March 29th at 7:00 p.m. in the Weber Europa, Europa--March 30th at 7:00 p.m. in the Weber The Shop on Main Street--March 31st at 7:00 p.m. in the Weber The Grey Zone--April 2 at 7:00 p.m. in Boh 90 Judgment at Nuremburg--April 3 at 7:00 p.m. in Boh 90 Ghosts of Rwanda--April 16 at 7:00 p.m. in Boh 90 Featured speakers: David Gewirtzman and Eugenie Mukeshimana will present: "The Holocaust and Genocide, Past and Present" on Monday, April 18 at 4:30 p.m. in Chem 200. Mr. Gewirtzman is a Holocaust survivor and Ms. Mukeshimana is a Rwandan refugee and genocide survivor.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Petersen-Perlman
2004-2005 Chair