

**President's Commission on Women's Issues
Minutes – December 14, 2004**

SPRING 2005 MEETINGS: Monday, February 28, 2:00 to 3:30 2141 Tydings

Thursday, May 5, 2:00 to 3:30, 2141 Tydings

The meeting came to order at 2:00 p.m. The following were in attendance: Cynthia Hale (Chair), Dianne Sullivan (Administrative Assistant), Sue Briggs, Joanne DeSiato, Beverly Greenfeig, Julie Choe Kim, Sally Koblinsky, Trina Kudlacek, Linda LeNoir, Pat Mielke, Laura Nichols, Lee Peterson, Elizabeth Platz, Ellen Scholnick, Troy Tucker (Guest), Robert Waters. Introduction was made for the benefit of new members and guests.

Women's Basketball: Troy Tucker, Associate Director for Athletics asked for the Commission's support and participation on **Sunday, February 13, when the Maryland Women's Basketball Team will play Duke University at 3:00 in Comcast. The campus is attempting to break the ACC single-game attendance record of 14,500.**

Each of you should have received an invitation to the pre-game reception and the game. When you RSVP, you will be provided a parking pass as well. Additional tickets are \$7 and if you have a group that you would like to bring, you can contact the ticket office and see if they can provide you with a block of tickets at a discount. For example, I am going to invite my daughter's high school Pom team – and Troy indicated we could probably get them tickets at \$3 each. If you have questions, contact the Ticket Office at 4-7070 or call Troy Tucker at 4-1325.

PCEC: It was announced that Nancy Baugher, Assistant Dean in the College of Life Sciences, (5-2083, nbaugher@umd.edu), and Debra Thomas, IT Specialist, Office of the Registrar (4-8267, dwihite@deans.umd.edu), will Co-Chair the Professional Concepts Exchange Conference in Spring, 2005. Dianne Sullivan will serve in the role of "consultant" to the Conference and will provide her experience and knowledge. The planning committee has met and is at work, but PCWI Members are urged to suggest a conference theme, idea for a keynote speaker, and to encourage friends and colleagues to volunteer to work on the Conference Planning Committee. We are still settling on a venue, and are exploring options at Comcast and in the Van Munching Hall, as well as the Inn and Conference Center.

In late December, the Provost agreed to provide \$5,000 to assist with the Conference costs.

Awards: We discussed whether there would be value in combining our two annual awards – Woman of the Year and Woman of Color – at one presentation ceremony – the idea being that it would produce a larger crowd and it would reduce the costs. We also considered the feasibility of making those two awards at the Professional Concept

Exchange Conference. After a spirited discussion, we reached consensus that the events should be kept separate. Members agreed that each event should be scheduled separately and with some distance apart: The WOY in Spring, as was traditionally done in previous years to culminate Women's History Month in March; the PCEC in June, at the end of the school year where it does not conflict with campus activities; and finally the WOC in the Fall semester. This scheduling allows each event to be fully highlighted as they celebrate the diversity of the campus. In addition, it will be cost effective to have them spread over two fiscal years. Sally Koblinsky suggested that we seek co-sponsors for these events to off-set costs..

Woman of the Year (WOY): It has been confirmed that Anne Geronimo, Associate Director of ORAA, 5-4178, ageronimo@umresearch.umd.edu, will chair the WOY Award Committee. Anne has begun to organize the event and will distribute announcements on the campus in early February. She is currently working with the President's Office to identify a date – **put a hold on your calendars for the afternoon of APRIL 6.** .

Women of Color (WOC): Linda LeNoir, Assistant Director of Career Center, 4-7225, lle Noir@deans.umd.edu, confirmed that she will chair the WOC Award Committee. She will be contacting last year's coordinator, Sharon Fries Britt, Asst. Prof, EDPL, 5-0186, sf24@umail.umd.edu later this semester.

Child Day Care: Pal Mielke, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, presented an update on the Day Care Program. Despite strong support from President Mote, the campus has not been able to identify an affordable location for a Day Care Center. An empty school in Riverdale was under serious consideration, but the renovation and maintenance costs were unacceptable. Pat Mielke shared her commitment and that of Dr. Mote to continue to work for a solution to this long standing need. There is some hope that a Day Care Center can be included in the new research park that will be constructed on the eastern side of Route 1 in proximity to the Metro. Pat will continue to keep the Commission informed of any progress.

Climate Review: There was a lively discussion regarding Dr. Mote's request that the Commission "take a look" at climate issues for female faculty in the sciences and engineering departments. Three Commission members have agreed to work to conduct such a review. It was suggested that we consult with Dr. Destler before moving forward. Cindi Hale contacted Dr. Destler in late December and he asked that we put this on hold until he was able to discuss it with Dr. Mote.

Mentor Project: To follow up on a conversation at the October meeting, when there was enthusiastic support for an undergraduate mentoring program under the auspices of the PCWI, Cindi Hale explained that Dr. Mote suggested that we reach out to commuting students for the new mentorship project. This suggestion was warmly received, since most members agreed that this is a group which would benefit greatly from our program.

BeverlyGreenfeig and Barbara Goldberg, both with the Returning Students program at 5-7693, agreed to work to develop a “white paper” to define the purpose of the PCWI mentoring program and to frame how it would be managed during the spring semester. That document has been drafted and will be distributed under separate cover.

Victim’s Assistance Program: Cindi explained that the funds, which were originally given to the PCWI, to assist victims of sexual assault on campus, have been under the management of Nancy Hensler-McGinnis, the Victims Advocate in the Health Center. Ms Hensler-McGinnis notified us that the original gift has been expended, and asked for our support in soliciting a new gift. We gave our support, but agreed that in the interests of efficiency and the privacy of the victims, future gifts should be directed to the Health Center and the Commission need not have any formal role in this activity.

Student-Parents Group : An interest group consisting of students, who are parents, has become active on the campus and that group is soliciting support to be established as a separate Presidential Commission. We agreed to invite them to our next meeting to discuss the feasibility of our working together, because the sense is that their issues are in fact part of the Women’s Commissions agenda.

Laura Burns has responded and indicated that she will attend our next meeting, and reiterated her hope that we will support the establishment of a separate commission to support family issues.

PCEI: We discussed the desirability of establishing a liaison between PCWI and the President’s Commission on Ethnic Issues; Cindi agreed to contact Gloria Bouis. In a subsequent conversation it was decided to keep continue the communication between the two groups informal, but the PCEI did indicate their enthusiasm about helping with the Woman of Color awards.

Web Site: We reminded members that the PCWI website is being managed by the staff of the Office of Human Relations and if you have any suggestions or items to include, please notify Dianne Sullivan, who coordinates website issues with that office.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35.