

President's Commission on Women's Issues (PCWI)

Minutes – March 14, 2005

The meeting came to order at 2:00 p.m. The following were in attendance: Cynthia Hale (Chair), Dianne Sullivan (Administrative Assistant). Kathryn Bartol, Laura Burns, Roberta Coates, Joanne DeSiato, Anne Geromino, Beverly Greenfig, Barbara Goldberg, Sally Koblinsky, Martha McClintock-Comeaux, Amber Simco, Andrianne Stuart, and Debbie Thomas. Introductions were made for the benefit of guests.

PCEC Update: Keynote speakers for the conference are yet to be identified. Commission members agreed to recommend potential speakers Workshops are still needed. The conference will be held once more at the Inn and Conference Center on June 24, 2005.

WOY Award: There are five nominations, so far, for the Woman of the Year Award (WOY). There was a concern for this number and Commission hopes that there will be more to be submitted. Suggestion was made to include nominations from last year but Commission was informed that last year's nominations should not be resubmitted. This raised some concerns among commission members and a plan for further discussion to review the nomination process.

Mentorship: Thirteen to Fourteen commission members agreed to mentor students and about 20 students requested mentors. Handouts of a Resource Directory and a Faculty and Staff Guide for assisting students in need were distributed to mentors. There will be a final evaluation of the mentorship program initiative. Suggestion to have a control group and other groups to experiment on program's benefit in serving students does not seem practical at this time, due to the limited enrollment.

Climate Survey: A subset of PCWI members met with Dr. Destler to discuss the climate survey. He was highly supportive and the conversation was productive. He agreed that if we return with a proposal, he would try to identify some funding for the survey and he also urged us to work with Sharon LaVoy in OIRP, who he believes has access to critical data and has considerable expertise.

Parent-Study Group: Laura Burns and Amber Simco, representatives of the Parent-Study Group, are seeking advice and guidance from the Commission to form a family commission on campus. They would like to obtain information on resources on campus and how they can be made available to incoming student parents. They envision having a resource center to assist student parents, and all parents affiliated with the campus. Ellin Scholnick suggested that the family commission project become a subcommittee of the PCWI, which would provide continuity when Burns and Simco graduate in May. Amber and Laura expressed some concern about the feasibility of this arrangement, but Marta McClintock-Comeaux, who is a graduate student in Family Studies, agreed to team with Amber and Laura to develop some plans and an agenda for a subcommittee of PCWI to address the concerns of parents. We agreed to discuss this further at our May meeting.

Announcements:

- The annual Women's Forum is scheduled for October 21, 2005.
- The Ethnic Minority Issues Award Nomination is on Website.
- A calendar of Events for Women's History Month was distributed prepared by Dianne Sullivan and distributed to departments as well as posted on website.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.