

**President's Commission on Women's Issues  
Minutes for Meeting of October 6, 2005**

**UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:**

**Woman of Color Award Ceremony – November 3 at 3:00 in the Maryland Room**

**Celebration of Women's Voices - March 11 at 7:30 pm in the Chapel**

**PCWI Meeting – December 7 at 3:00 in 2141 Tydings**

The meeting came to order at 2:00 pm on October 6 in room 1102 Francis Scott Key Building. The following individuals were in attendance: Cynthia Hale, Chair, Dianne Sullivan, Admin. Asst, Kathryn Bartol, Julie Choe Kim, Joanne DeSiato. Barbara Goldberg, Beverly Greenfeig, Sally Koblinsky, Marta McClintock-Comeaux, Beth Platz, Debbie Yow.

A brief budget report indicated that the Commission closed the budget in the black in FY 05 and that we appear to have sufficient funds to cover all activities in the coming year.

We began with reports on current activities. Marta McClintock Comeaux reported on the status of the **Family Friendly Task Force** – explaining that she is leading a committee of faculty, staff and students who met throughout the summer to explore the needs of the College Park Community with respect to facilities for student parents as well as faculty/staff parents. They have compiled research on a number of other universities as a basis of comparison. They have organized a list of resources which they believe are critical to improving the environment for young families at College Park. Cindi Hale met with VPs Ann Wylie and Linda Clement to seek their support, and received an enthusiastic response. A formal, written request from the Task Force to Drs. Wylie and Clement is being finalized and will be forwarded shortly. Beth Platz provided some important information concerning related campus initiatives and some perspective on previous efforts on family related issues by the Commission and other campus groups.

A discussion concerning the status of a child care facility followed this conversation, and it was agreed that we would ask John Porcari to discuss the likelihood of finding space to construct a facility, noting that virtually all our peers and aspirational peers have a university sponsored child care center for students, faculty and staff. We also discussed seeking a private funder for a child care center, possibly by offering naming rights, through the Capital Campaign.

Cindi Hale and Kay Bartol provided an update the the **Faculty Climate Study Task Force**, which has resumed meeting this semester. They are presently collecting data/evidence to get a sense of whether there is a climate problem for the female tenured/tenure track faculty. Their plan is to do a preliminary assessment and to develop a proposal for resources that would permit a more thorough analysis. (Debbie Yow indicated a willingness to provide some seed money to help get this analysis underway. ) Sharon LaVoy of OIRP is providing the committee with support, other members include: Drs. Kay Bartol, Barbara Finkelstien, Ellin Scholnick, Harriet Presser, Sandra Greer and Linda Schmidt.

Barbara Goldberg and Dianne Sullivan reported that the **Woman of Color Award Committee** received a reasonable number of nominations for the award and were close to finishing their review and selection. Linda LeNoir is chairing this committee and the award ceremony is scheduled for November 3, at 3:00 in the Maryland Room.

Cindi Hale, Beverly Greenfeig and Barbara Goldberg reported that the **PCWI Mentoring Initiative for Transfer Students** was going well. Meetings with interested students proved to be effective. Approximately 30 transfer students have been matched with campus mentors. Feedback has been very positive. Debbie Yow has offered to host an event for mentors and mentees at the Comcast Center at the end of the semester.

We announced a concert which has been scheduled **for March 11 at 7:300 PM at the University Chapel, called a "Celebration of Women's Voices"** and which will be jointly sponsored by the PCWI and the School of Music during Women's History Month. The concert will feature women's vocal groups from a local high school and from the campus. We are presently seeking a Mistress of Ceremony for this event.

In addition, Dr. Silvey, the conductor, has contacted several women alumna who were responsible for the creation of the Chapel when they were students at Maryland and we are looking for someone who would coordinate a visit from these women, so that they could be recognized at the concert.

We discussed a possible event which would invite young girls to spend time on the campus and to discuss their academic goals and to expose them to a University environment. The focus would be on girls who would not normally plan to attend a University. After the academic "dream building" session, the girls would be invited to a Women's Basketball game and a reception at the Comcast Center. There was a great deal of enthusiasm for this event and Debbie Yow has offered support with the game and reception. We are seeking a coordinator.

We shared the book presented to the Commission by Frances Glendenning at the PCE Conference in June, entitled Women of Achievement in Maryland History, by Carolyn B. Stegman. This is an amazing resource. We discussed placing the dust jacket of the book in one of the trophy cases in Comcast with a small sign indicating that the book is available in the Maryland Room at McKeldin Library.

In the Spring, 2006 semester, the PCWI will organize the Outstanding Woman of the Year award and we are seeking volunteers to chair that committee.

We are also seeking Co-Chairs for the Professional Concepts Exchange Conference. We discussed planning to schedule that conference in June, as we did last year, and working this year to assure better communication and program planning for the non-exempt and exempt staff who participate in this event. The preliminary financial report on last year's conference indicates that all costs were covered by the registration fees and the contribution of the Provost.

We agreed that we would endeavor to put all relevant dates on the PCWI website to assist members with planning.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50.