

11 September, 3:10 pm  
3237 Benjamin Building

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Present: Carol Parham (Chair), Kathryn Bartol, Angela Bass, Julie Choe Kim, Vicky Foxworth, Simone Gibson, Barbara Goldberg, Sally Koblinsky, Mona Levine, Shirley Logan, Marla McIntosh, KerryAnn O'Meara, Laura Nichols, Kate Riera, Ellin Scholnick, Linda Steiner, Donna Wiseman, Hope Sanders (Administrative Assistant).

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**Welcome & Introductions:**

New Commission Chair Carol Parham began the meeting by welcoming both new and returning members. She then announced the new Commission members and asked each present individual to introduce herself.

**2009 Celebration of Women, (discussion):**

Following introductions, the Commission began discussing the upcoming 2009 Celebration of Women. Carol advised members of the survey sent to attendees of the 2008 Celebration of Women, the survey's results and of how the results shaped the planning for the 2009 event. She also identified the members of the Planning Committee as Cindi Hale, Barbara Goldberg, Beverly Greenfeig and herself. Carol announced 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. on March 30, 2009 as the selected time and date for the upcoming event, with the Adele H. Stamp Student Union's Colony Ballroom as the new location. Following this announcement, she explained why the room was selected and reserved during the Summer by noting the impending renovation of rooms in Stamp and foreseen increase in demand. Logistics of the event and the proposed planning timeline were also presented.

Laura Nichols, Julie Choe Kim and Linda LeNoir were respectively introduced as the Chairs of the Outstanding Staff, Woman of the Year and Woman of Color award committees. Suzanne Bianchi, Linda Clement, Bonnie Thornton-Dill and Patricia Hill-Collins were recommended by the Planning Committee as possible featured speakers for the event. No additional names were submitted by the Commission.

Finally, Carol invited individuals to join the various subcommittees, ask any questions regarding current plans and sign-up for subcommittees on the distributed sheet. Following the invitation, Linda Steiner inquired about adding a student award to the program and was invited by Carol to explore such an option. Graduate Student Representatives Kate Riera and Simone Gibson were asked for comments and also to join the committee. Both agreed to join the committee and stated that introducing such an award would have positive results including increased student attendance. Kate, Linda and Simone will present their thoughts to the Commission during the October meeting.

-At this point, Linda noted that the October meeting conflicts with Yom Kippur. Carol agreed to review the schedule and submit a new date for the meeting. –

**Women in Higher Education Reports:**

KerryAnn O'Meara presented an overview of the summer research done by the EDHI 788A class. She began by offering thanks to Ellin Scholnick and Mona Levine for their assistance gathering the data. Although the class was small in size, KerryAnn stated that it was nice to have PCWI affiliation attached to the research project. She also invited members to visit the Spring course and reported that during the Commission's October meeting the students would conduct a 20 minute summary of their preliminary findings.

During her talk, KerryAnn noted that the project was divided into two areas: the status of Women Faculty at UMD and Women Administrators, adding that the data for women at UMD was compared to peer universities in order to provide urgency and a representative breakdown. In response to a question, she stated that some of the possible topics for the Spring 2009 class include a focus on family-friendly, student and nonexempt staff issues. KerryAnn stated that the students are looking forward to presenting their preliminary reports to the Commission in October. In closing, she noted that this is a project that she would be interested in continuing to expand in the future.

Carol then reminded members that the Provost's Conversations on Ethnicity and Diversity is one vehicle for expanding the audience for the reports and that the group should consider others options as well.

#### **New Business:**

Carol presented the idea of possibly forming goals for the upcoming year and highlighted the fact the Celebration of Women currently stands as the PCWI's signature event. Conversation concerning the future and role of the group were discussed with various members posing ideas, which included possible interactions with other campus groups. The advocacy role of the Commission was clarified by both Donna Wiseman and Carol. Specifically, Donna clarified that the focus of the group's activities should be in line with its role of "keeping the conversations going," not on acting as problem solvers. Carol indicated that she would come back with ideas in the near future.

Carol opened the floor for new ideas and goals, but stressed that suggestions should be both doable and of interest to the person making the suggestion. Sally Koblinsky stated an interest in expanding the scope of activities to include staff and students, including hosting a focus group where these communities could present their wishes to the Commission. Marla McIntosh suggested expanding the advocacy activities of the Commission to surround topics related to motherhood. Barbara cautioned the group to fully evaluate its ideas since some previous actions were not successful. Specifically, she reminded members of their error in requesting that a single staff member speak to the group on behalf of all staff. Barbara also mentioned that the Commission should try to focus its efforts towards lasting changes, not "one-shot deals." The meeting closed with members agreeing to continue discussing the topic in the future.

#### **Announcements:**

- Marla introduced an event that she organized in sponsorship with the: the Office of the Provost; the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources; the College of Chemical and Life Sciences; the College of Computer, Mathematical and Physical Sciences; the Clark School of Engineering and the School of Public Health. Along with nine other area science professionals, she will host a panel discussion of the book and topic of "Motherhood: the Elephant in the Lab." Following a

review of the book's origin and topic, Commission members agreed to help promote the event.

The meeting concluded at 4:27 p.m. The next meeting will be held Thursday, October 2, 2008 at 3 p.m. in room 3237 Benjamin Building.