Council for Women’s Concerns Minutes - 14 November 2003

Attendance: Marilyn Bendena, Karen Bird, Sara Bird, Amanda Corrigan, Elizabeth Finklea, Kathy Fletcher, Carol Hamblen, Barb Howe, Ruth Kershner, Sharon Mallow for Jennifer McIntosh, Sita Misra, Jon Reed, Robin Rupenthal, Mary Strife, Martha Thorn, C.B. Wilson

Recorder: Barb Howe volunteered to be recorder since Kim Guynn was not present.

I. Call to Order and Discussion of Minutes

Mary Strife called the meeting to order at 12:40. We introduced ourselves. There was no quorum so approval of the minutes was delayed until we had a quorum. Amanda Corrigan noted that she was present at the October meeting but was not so listed in the minutes. There were no other corrections or additions to the minutes.

II. Budget Report

Sara Bird has talked to Bobbie in the EBO in Stewart Hall. We have $305 in outstanding payments for the Women of Color lunch. We need to transfer $500 from our social justice account to our revenue account for Caridad Morales Nussa’s payment. We will have $491 in profit in our revenue account, including the $200 contribution that is coming from Duane Nellis.

III. Approval of Minutes

Since we then had a quorum, Ruth Kershner moved to approve the minutes as amended. Martha Thorn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

IV. Social Justice Report

Sharon Mallow gave the social justice report for Jennifer McIntosh. Diversity Week went well. Next year’s Diversity Week is October 18-22, so it will not conflict with our women and creativity conference. Sharon has reserved the ballroom for October 20th for our Women of Color program. The minority doctoral colloquium program will be Sunday-Tuesday, October 11-12, 2004. Ruth asked if there could be something at the Health Sciences Center for Diversity Week, and Sharon said she would pass on this message.

V. Center for Women’s Studies Report

Barb reported that they have 20 majors. The residency and Diversity Week presentations went well and were well attended, as was the CCSJ Diversity Week program. There was a technology, surveillance, and gender Fireside Chat on November 12. All of the spring courses are full, so there will be 5 Intro to WMST courses in the summer since it is hard to expand the major when students cannot get the intro course. The Women in Movies course in the fall will have 300 seats.

VI. Women of Color Luncheon Report

Liz Finklea reported that there are still 3 checks outstanding, and then we can close the accounts on the luncheon. This is very good compared to our experience collecting on delinquent accounts in previous years. One group sent in 2 applications for tickets with 2 different names and 2 different configurations of student/adult tickets so we double counted them. After correcting that, our total was 296 instead of 308.
A few people did not use their tickets. Intercollegiate athletics, in particular, told us at the last minute that it was not using all its tickets, but Martha knows there were people who would have come if they had known those tickets were available. No one came from Extension. Robin did not know why that was the case, although she knew the information was circulated through Extension.

Karen has agreed to have her office be the base office for next year. We will just have reservations sent to her name and PO Box. Liz will write a thank you note to Cathy Jasper for her assistance.

Our new procedures meant “re-educating” some people about our procedures, but the procedures did work and should be easier next year.

We discussed whether we should call the event “Women of Color Program” or “Women of Color Event” instead of “Luncheon” to make it easier for people to use state funds to pay for this.

We still need to combine the address list of people who were invited with the list of those who actually attended. Mary Strife and Martha Thorn will give their lists to Liz so we get one good list for next year.

Liz can determine the number of students and non-students who attended, but there were more non-students than students. Student donations helped. Intercollegiate athletics gave us tickets at the last minute to give to students, but we could not use them at the last minute.

We need to be sure to invite the bookstore next time and have extra seats for people to attend the program.

Thanks to Karen for doing the tickets and to Sita for the programs and invitations. Mary presented Sita with a bouquet of flowers for her assistance since she had neglected to thank her at the luncheon.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Needs Assessment: Carol Hamblen reported that the committee met on November 12th, with Barb, Carol, Jon, and Mary present. Terry Nebel, president of Staff Council, came and talked about issues he had learned about from women staff. The two top ones were advancement opportunities and child care issues. The committee talked a lot about child care options and the need for child care downtown and at Evansdale and the need for child care during the evening. The committee wants to ask the Council for Women’s Concerns to add the child care coordinator to the council as an ex-officio member. The committee is still gathering information.

The committee thought that the St. Francis School property that WVU recently purchased offered potential opportunities for a child care facility, as might the Square at Falling Run project since there might be space there for a community-university facility.

Barb talked about the campus climate survey her WMST 170 students are doing. The students are looking at images of women on campus, faculty equality issues, athletics, sexual harassment, and various safety issues. The survey results are due December 10th and will be shared with the council. This survey has IRB approval as an exempt project.

We decided to invite Leslie Haning to a meeting, especially because Martha said she had recently seen Leslie, who said she had good news to share with us.

Ruth suggested working on a needs assessment would be a good project for a graduate student.
B. Mom’s Turn to Learn Day

Amanda reported that the date is set for March 24 at the Morgantown Mall. The committee needs to get together and divide up the work. Amanda is willing to be in charge but would like a co-chair. There will not be as much help from the Center for Women’s Studies this because Marlene is gone, and Barb will be on sabbatical. Karen would prefer a date near a pay day and near a weekend. NOTE: Marshall’s date is not the 24th but the 29th - do we want to change?? Maybe we could take the lead in setting the date next time.

Committee members are Roz Becker, Sara Bird, Linda Hildebrand, Susan Brown, Kim Guynn, Martha Thorn, and Amanda Corrigan. Ruth Kershner can help the day of the event. The committee will try to meet the first week of December.

Amanda will contact Jim Davis to do an E-News release during the 1st week of December when the committee is ready to solicit WVU groups to participate. They want to issue an invitation to everyone this year. Amanda has a copy of Marlene’s notebook from last year and is going through that. We have a good template and now need to put it in action.

The big job is dividing up publicity to be sure we have banners, press releases, etc., done in a timely fashion. Barb will see if she can get any of Marlene’s files on disk to Amanda.

Barb reported that the state AAUW is being encouraged to support this event around the state this year, so the Morgantown group may be available to help.

C. Women and Creativity Conference

Barb said the deadline for the call for proposals is December 1. She reviewed the major events for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, including the public lecture by Libby Larsen, symphony concert, and presentation about Martha Graham. We are still waiting to get Libby Larsen’s contract as the women’s studies resident but need to wait for airfares to be available. We are still negotiating the details of the Radisson contract. Only the WVU logo can be used on the banner and posters, but names of sponsoring groups can be there. Ruth again asked about whether there was a role for local musicians to play during breaks, etc.

D. Buswell Award

Jon Reed reported in Chelle Adams’s absence. The committee has met and is coordinating its activities with C.B. Wilson’s office. The committee is following timetable of past years. The committee talked about making sure is someone on stage to help with the presentation. C.B. said we need to talk to Robin Yorty at Institutional Advancement about that. C.B. will again send a notice to deans about the award to encourage nominations. The council will have to make its decision at the March meeting.

E. Media Watch

Amanda reported that the committee met for the first time and, since this is a new committee, it is trying to define its mission. The committee wants to develop a mission/purpose statement and decided on two ideas: 1) plan some kind of event beyond responding in a reactionary way - maybe a display area of good and negative media images so people can write comments and respond to each other. The council could help the committee collect images, and they could also use historical images. Ruth has talked to Eve Faulkes,
who teaches the history of graphic arts and will look for images. Barb suggested a checking website she knows of about gender ads (www.genderads.com) and talking to Elizabeth Engelhardt since WMST 170 students do media notebooks.

2) establish a scale to be able to talk about issues and see how problematic we think they are

One suggestion was to get the Festival of Ideas to think about women and advertising and marketing. Ruth suggested inviting Jean Kilbourne, who has produced the “Killing Us Softly” series of films on advertising, for Festival of Ideas.

VII. Old Business

Ruth sent a letter to Crockett’s, and the owner took down the sign that some found offensive. We have not heard anything from Whitetail’s about its “Chicks dig Shaved Legs” ad.

Student Membership - Mary led the discussion about what to do about student members. Barb said that Constinia Charbonette has resigned. The current student members are Judith Norton, Kristin Steinhardt-Valenti, Sara Bird, and Mary Wendekier. John Antonelli not a student now.

Mary will contact Charlie Battleson, student body president for ideas for more student members. Ruth will talk to Ron Justice to get a Panhellenic representative. It would also be good to get an international student representative. Student terms are supposed to be for one year, but the current membership list says these are three-year terms. This needs to be checked in the by-laws and corrected for the spring 2004 elections.

VIII. New Business

Falling Run

Barb brought up her concerns about the planned 1700-car underground garage the City of Morgantown is going to build. Others agreed there are safety concerns. Ruth said the Charleston Area Medical Center garage uses lots of cameras but is not a totally underground garage. We do not know if there will be meters or a ticketing situation like the current garages use. Several of us do not like the ticket stations at the garages now because of they do not feel like safe places.

Jon suggested we talk to Scott Kelly since WVU will use this garage and is involved in negotiations with the city to buy property. Karen moved to write a letter to the parking authority and Ron Justice as mayor, Martha seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. We also talked about inviting someone to come to a meeting to talk to us about the plans. Jon will talk to Scott before Ruth Kekrshner writes the letters.

Women of Color speaker for 2004

Barb sugested Vijaya Ramakrishna, a family friend and business woman from Charleston, who has lived in the U.S. for a long time. She and her husband have an orphanage in India.

Another suggestion was Asra Nomani. If we want her, we need to ask soon as she has busy schedule. We would want her to talk about her life as a journalist. Jon says her book does a good job of making cross-cultural connections.

Or do we want someone from Middle East?
International Tea

The Council for Women’s Concerns will sponsor the international tea at E Moore Hall on January 22nd from 4-5 p.m. Women’s studies will not be involved this year because Barb will be on sabbatical, and the center is short-staffed. Ruth will do an activity. Liz will provide shortbread and be coordinator.

Announcements

IX. Announcements

Sara announced that the women’s soccer team is in the NCAA tournament tonight. If the team gets to the third round on Sunday, this will be the first time a WVU team has gone that far in the tournament.

The spring retreat date is May 26th at Westvaco.

The next meeting is December 5th at Jerry West Lounge. Ruth will be the recorder.

The January meeting is January 9th.

International student orientation is January 5th and 6th, said Karen. Please encourage international students to participate. She also reminded us of the importance of international students being full-time students. They must talk to the Office of International Students and Scholars if they are considering less than full-time status, as the feds are cracking down.

Mary will not be at the December 5th meeting, so Liz and Martha will preside.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Howe
Recorder

Agenda – December 5, 2003
Jerry West Lounge
Recorder: Ruth Kershner

Call to Order & Approval of Minutes 5 min
Social Justice 5 min
Women’s Studies 5 min
Women of Color Luncheon Report 10 min
Committee Reports:
Mom’s Turn To Learn 10 min
Women and Creativity Conference 10 min
Buswell Committee 10 min
Media Watch 10 min
Old Business: Parking garage question 10 min
New Business: Nominating committee 5 min
Adjourn