

President's Commission on the Status of University Women

Executive Committee Meeting

November 9, 2017

Minutes

Present: Brett Gunnink (Co-chair); Rebecca Belou (Co-chair); Betsy Danforth; Jessi Smith; David Aderholdt; Tracy Sterling; Yvonne Rudman

Welcome and introductions.

Presentation on CEDAW: Jan Strout and Lauren Gette-King, MSU instructor in the College of Letters and Science seminar and Department of Modern Languages and Literature instructor (respectively) and members of a Bozeman Working Group presented on cities for the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as pathway to gender equality. Their elevator speech emphasized CEDAW's role in strengthening fair treatment for women in the workplace and education. Reasons presented for promoting CEDAW now are: the current national political environment; new leadership in Bozeman city government; ERA not being as comprehensive as CEDAW; Montana's low rankings in metrics for women in employment, business development and safety in the home and community. The Bozeman Working Group is advocating for a city ordinance in support of CEDAW and the MSU members of this Group see opportunities for introducing CEDAW into the MSU curriculum and for faculty to become involved in conducting an intersectional gender analysis to drive city action for integrating CEDAW into the city's strategic plan.

Commission impact on all campuses: Belou commented on the broad impact of having committee members from all campuses participate in Commission meetings. One example of this impact is MSU-Billings incorporating MSU-Bozeman faculty handbook content into their campus handbook. Belou endorsed identifying ways to increase relaying Commission activities and outcomes to all campuses in support of women's equity and human rights issues.

Committee Reports:

Awards (Danforth): Nominations due November 9; Applications are due November 22nd.

Assessment (Smith): The Assessment team met and coded self-studies for past five years which documented how departments adopted and plan to implement equity practices. After the team collapses the data they will present to campus.

Communications (Rudman): The subcommittee is meeting Monday, November 13 to discuss strategies for raising PCOSUW's profile and for increasing information sharing related to the Commission's mission to MSU's female faculty, students and staff. Promotion of 125th Anniversary activities will also be discussed.

Policy (Shaffer): David Aderholdt presented on behalf of Jyl Schaeffer and said that the Office of Institutional Equity is continuing its work on the pregnant student policy for PEC in collaboration with MSU Legal, the VOICE Center and others. OIE is aiming for a Spring 2018 completion date for the policy and for implementation in Fall 2018. Common hour exam policy issues were discussed.

Nominations (Sterling): Staff senate chair is retiring; Ramie Pederson has assumed the role of Chair.

125th Anniversary Event: The event planning ad hoc committee has added Kerry Hanson as a committee member. The Foundation notified the Commission of a donor wanting to become involved with planning the Commission's role in the 125th Anniversary Event. The Commission will suggest possible roles for involvement.

A discussion about the Commission's contribution to 125th Anniversary events determined that some activities will be open to the public and a subset of activities would be targeted to specific audiences, such as students. Tentatively a spring event is proposed for March 2018 during Women's History Month, perhaps in collaboration with the Women's Center and would feature a panel of four to five women addressing a predetermined topic. Another event would be scheduled for Fall 2018 perhaps in collaboration with Cap on Cancer which takes place on the stadium field during the football game's half-time. In conjunction with the slate of events already scheduled throughout the year, the Committee proposes to encourage each College to recognize women in some aspect during their featured month. The Committee also discussed possible long-term outcomes of 125th Anniversary Commission-sponsored events such as an annual award recognizing MSU women who make significant contributions to promoting gender equity and/or diversity; a book commemorating women's various roles throughout MSU's history and/or a website featuring on-going recognition of women of note that would be maintained into the future (based on a similar site developed at John's Hopkins University: The Women of Hopkins, Know them. Join them. <http://www.womenofhopkins.com/>).

The Committee began a discussion of what will constitute a successful event(s) and what the criteria will be for nominating and selecting women of note.

Next Meeting: December 14, 2017, 2-3pm, 325 LJH