

Committee on the Status of Women, Minutes Tues, Dec 04, 2012; 2:00-3:00 pm,  
Gruening 718

Members Present: Derek Sikes, Kayt Sunwood, Jane Weber, Diana Di Stefano, Mary Ehrlander, Amy Barnsley, Megan McPhee, Nilima Hullavarad, Ellen Lopez

Members absent: Shawn Russell, Jenny Liu

**1) Woman Faculty Luncheon:** Carol Gold and Jane Weber will meet with Michael Sfraga re: funding for the Woman's Luncheon. Need a speaker - first meeting in spring. Date is April 26, 2013.

**2) Women Center Advisory Board.** Ellen Lopez and Jane Weber are CSW representatives on this and an introductory meeting has been held. A formal meeting will be held on Friday this week.

**3) Report/follow-up on inquiries to Peer Institutions about faculty/administrative positions focusing on the issues of women faculty:** Equivalent (n=11) and Aspirational (n=9) Peer institutions, as listed on UAF's website, were contacted by Amy Barnsley to ask if they had, or knew of, examples of such a position. 11 institutions responded which Amy compiled into an 8 page document that was distributed to members of CSW. Kayt Sunwood distributed four relevant publications (three by Sharon Bird) about which Kayt wrote: "The Unsettling Universities", Institutional Housekeeping, and Enhancing Departmental Climate documents are materials which should inform the discussion about a position to focus on Women Faculty issues." Mary pointed out that it would be interesting to see if there is a difference between the prevalence of such a position at 'Equivalent' vs 'Aspirational' peer institutions. Four responses (#s 7-10) were from the latter, the other 7 responses were from the former.

To do - CSW will study two apparently good examples found from Amy's survey: (1) The Ohio State - The Women's Place: <http://womensplace.osu.edu/staff.html> and the (2) University of Maine - the Rising Tide Center, an NSF funded program to increase the retention of women faculty and Sharon Bird's publications that Kayt distributed. CSW will read these with the goal of improving the draft rationale for the position that was written by Carol Gold. Mary emphasized that the rationale needs to be supported by UAF data and published findings. CSW needs empirical, not anecdotal, evidence that there are institutional problems that are holding women back at UAF.

The related UAF work life balance survey done by the Faculty Senate that was done in 2005 will be reconsidered by CSW in the spring.

**3) Navigating Difference II Brown Bag report & suggestion/request for Conversation Cafes once or twice per month – perhaps instead of Brown Bags? Let's discuss:** Kayt reported that the Brown Bag was well attended and generated an interesting discussion. Kayt suggested that having a meeting time that is constant will be better for planning. Mary suggested Fridays are good and that having it set for the same time once/twice a month for the next semester would be a great test. The idea of changing the name from Brown Bag to Conversation Cafe was received warmly - "it's a catchier name." Other institutions have had various 'cafes' named eg. Conversation Cafe, Global Cafe, World Cafe etc.

**4) Next Semester Meetings** - Fridays 10:30-11:30 with first meeting Feb 1, then Feb 22, March 22; Promotion and Tenure workshop April 26 10:00-12:00, Jane will reserve the room in Butrovitch. We need to think of panelists.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00;      Respectfully Submitted, Derek Sikes

These minutes are archived on the CSW website:

<http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty-senate/committees/committee-on-the-status-o/>