

PCSW Minutes  
December 5, 2003

Attendance: Dala Ramsey-Tooke, Anna Cavinato, Isaac Ersoff, LeeAnn McNerney, Annya Ritchie, Erin Wolford, Rob Cashell, Steve Wadner, Spencer Hughes, Gary Moses, Jeffrey Wetherill, Jill Gibian, Richard Hughes, Tempie Bartell.

Dala Ramsey opened the meeting and called Isaac Ersoff (located in Bend) by phone and introduced him to the new members of the committee. Next, the minutes from the 10/31/03 meeting were unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

1) **Community Safety & Environment Committee:**

Dala Ramsey, chair of the subcommittee, outlined the objectives for 03-04 and expressed that one of the main priorities for the subcommittee this year will be to write and recommend a Sexual Assault and Harassment Policy. She also reminded the commission about the upcoming Walk for Campus Safety and Lighting, which will take place on Wednesday December 10 at 5:00pm.

2) **Special Needs Committee:**

Richard Hughes reported on the WRRRC. He distributed a copy of the mission statement and reported that the center has received \$5,000 from AAUW. Part of this money will be used to hire student workers to assist in the center. He also reported that the center received \$800 from the Vending Committee to buy furniture and that a proposal submitted to Tech Fee is still pending. Current tasks include working on the web page; continue to pursue the childcare issue (Darlene Capshaw has expressed interest in developing her capstone project on childcare); using the center as a resource for those interested in internships, cornerstone projects, etc.; and planning for the International Women Celebration in March. Another initiative the center is considering is that of posting decals in offices of faculties and staff that would indicate a "safe zone" where people, independently of their gender or sexual orientation would feel supported and not subjected to judgment. This is a common practice on campuses around the nation as well as at corporations and would help establish a climate of equality and support on the Eastern campus.

Old Business:

Annya Ritchie reported on the performance "Sex Signals" which was held on campus on November 17, 2003. The performance was very well attended and received. Richard Hughes asked if the event had been taped. Annya did not think so. She also iterated that, due to the highly interactive nature of the show, a taped version would not be as effective. Dala asked how the audience felt about discussing the issues. Annya said that there was much participation from the audience with many vocal students. Annya recommended bringing the performance back next year.

New Business:

Report to the President – Dala and Anna will report an update of the commission's activities to President Lund in a meeting scheduled on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Assembly report – Anna will report to the Assembly next Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, during the five minutes access.

Book discussion proposal for the Education Committee – Isaac Ersoff proposed to adopt the book by Phyllis Chesler, “The New Anti-Semitism”, where the author describes a new form of anti-Semitism in academia and among feminist groups. Isaac will provide further information about the book to be shared among members of the Education Committee.

Walk for Campus Safety and Lighting – Dala reiterated that the annual walk will take place on Wednesday, December 10, 2003 at 5:00 pm. People interested in participating will congregate on the east steps of Pierce Library. Dala encouraged all committee members to attend.

The remainder of the meeting was used to discuss the article by sociologist Michael Flood, “Frequently asked questions about pro-feminist men”. Richard Hughes introduced the article and expressed that the impetus for the discussion comes from the restructuring of the Commission. He said that the Commission should be a place where members feel free to talk about

- a) their personal role on the Commission
- b) the mission of the Commission
- c) the role of male members

After Richard’s introduction, members broke out into small groups and reconvened after approximately 40 minutes. Members expressed relief to find out through the small group discussion that there is a large consensus of opinions about the role of men on the Commission. Jill Gibian reported that in her group nobody perceives that there is a different role for men or women on the Commission. Annya, Erin and Richard suggested including the word “feminist” in the Commission mission statement. Some members expressed caution in using labels, as sometimes words assume different meanings from the original one. Jill iterated that the Commission needs to be proactive and move together in the realization of the goals set forth. She also said that we have an opportunity to interact with the new President and that we need to make him aware of the presence of the Commission on the EOU campus. Finally she suggested compiling all the efforts made by the Commission since its inception.

Miscellaneous:

Annya reported that the Native American Program is organizing a discussion panel on racism. More information will be provided later.

Next meeting is scheduled for sometime in February 2004. Committees will be working on individual issues and will share the progress at the next meeting.

Minutes submitted by Anna G. Cavinato  
1/19/04