Location: Women’s Resource Center

Members Present: Karen Reichard, Alice Clark, Ginger Hoffman, Susan Baughman (student rep), Cathy Rogers, Alice Kornovich, Samara Jacobovitz (student rep), Barbara Ewell, Angie Hoffer, Sara Butler, Terri Bednarz, Laura Hope.

Minutes:

1. Student Reps were introduced to the committee: Susan Baughman and Samara Jacobovitz.
2. Powerpoint presentation: “I’m a Feminist because….” Campaign was presented by Susan Baughman. She gave us a sampling of the posters for the event to be unveiled in January.
   a. Ginger suggested we need to clarify “feminist” before the campaign rolls out.
   b. Barbara suggested that the sponsorship of the campaign include LUSSO and SAGE—student organizations.
   c. Barbara suggested that the campaign can include more than posters. For examples, webpage presence, blogs, office doors, etc.
   d. WS members are encouraged to send in their photos and a short response to “I’m a Feminist because….”
3. Follow up: LUSSO’s event on reproductive rights (Oct 27). Report given by Karen Reichard, Barbara Ewell…the event was well attended. Discussion was helpful in providing common ground. Could help shift focus from heated debates on pro-choice and pro-life to rights of women—how to meet the concern for the health and needs of women.
4. List of current WS minors & Courses were updated by members.
5. Follow up: Donna Lillian, “Women’s Studies or Gender Studies? What’s in a Name?” Panelists: Dr. Uriel Quesada, Dr. Laura Hope, Holly Combs and Jennifer Hunt. Nov. 3, 5:00-6:30pm, Audubon Room.
   a. Alice Kornovich expressed her concern that Uriel was left standing alone in the discussion on the name change discussion as he represented the desire to shift WS to WS and Gender Studies.
   b. An undercurrent of homophobia in the Women’s Studies Committee may be influencing the desire to keep WS as Women’s Studies.
   c. Karen expressed her concern that we need Uriel’s voice. Several members expressed a similar concern.
   d. Panelists were thanked for their participation. Laura Hope was only panelist present.
   e. The desire to remain as women’s studies seems to have the most vocal support, but more discussion is needed. There are members who want the name change to be WS and GS.
   f. Karen noted that she has spoken with a number of students who appreciated the energy in the discussion and the discussion itself. They had a positive reaction to
the discussion. Half of the students seems to support keeping WS, the other half wanted an inclusion of WS and GS. It was noted that there are many courses that focus on both gender and women.
g. Question was raised. If we combine WS and GS—do these programs have shared goals?
h. What is the problem we are trying to solve? We are spending a lot of time on WS or GS—the name change issue. We do not have the resources for two separate programs.
i. WS courses are not closed to non-WS minor students! We need to be sure LORA permits registration for all students into WS minor courses.
j. We need to have another discussion with students (a student event) in which students can give feedback on the name change issue. Note: The WS Committee makes the final decision for name change.

6. WS Course Offerings (topic not covered in this meeting—carry over)
a. (Refer to October 11, 2011 Minutes) There has been no WSA 100 course offered since 2009F, and it is one of the 3 choices for required courses for the minor. A subcommittee was formed with Sarah B., Jaita T., and Laura H. to discuss whether to: 1) expand the pool of required WS courses; 2) focus on a capstone course; 3) establish an independent study course—or other ideas about how to get a WSA 100 level course on a more regular basis that will meet one of the required core courses for the WS minor.

   b. We need to develop a basic framework for an introductory course on feminist theory with goals so that the introductory course can be taught by different specialties/departments. We agreed that a basic framework would be helpful, if we opt to expand the WSA 100 across disciplines.


8. Child care for students

9. WRC Newsletter (Karen)

10. WRC relocation (Karen)—Karen explained that she has to move WRC (no choice) to Marquette Hall. Pros—it will be a more accessible location for students, the WRC will get a “wish list.” Cons—the process lacks dialogue and mutual ownership because it is a top down decision.

11. Announcements:
   a. RADS Class (Self-defense) 3:30-5:30 pm, Wednesday 9 with Angela Honore (Location: Biever Hall, Police Department) Women’s Committee invited to participate.
   b. Naomi Yavneh, Brown Bag (Nov 16, 12:30pm, WRC) presents her research on the Scottish Noblewoman, Lady Christina.

Submitted by Terri Bednarz