

WOMENS' STUDIES
ADVISORY BOARD 4/17/09 1:00-4:00pm
MINUTES

Meeting called to order in the WCTR programming room: 1:12pm

Attendees: M. Ascencio, J. Barnes-Farrell, M. Bernstein, M. Breen, , M. Desai, A. Garey, B. Gurr, K. Holgerson, K. Labadorf, N. Naples, I. Semaan, B. Purkayastha, E. Simien, C. Spurlock, H. Turcotte, and K. Libal (arrived at 1:25).

Welcome by M. Desai, WS Director and introductions of attendees

1) Announcements

- a) Talks cancelled by Verta Taylor and Giri Mohini
- b) Graduation party being held on Sunday 5/10, 10:30 Nathan Hale Tent, all invited. Approximately 10 majors and 14-20 minors graduating
- c) Lyla Rupp presentations; 4/22 @ 10:30 in Wood Hall as part of the History Series; and Thur 4/23 4:30 Dodd Center in Konover Auditorium

2) Updates: Restructuring, Staffing New APiR, Christine Sylvester, Curriculum, Annual WS Conference, Programming and New Programs

a) Restructuring:

- Summarized dismantling of OMIA and Provost's decision last summer to reorganize the Institutes. V. Makowski was placed in charge of the 4 Cultural Institutes including UNESCO and D. Mcgee in charge of Cultural Centers. Task force originally set up by OMIA for interdisciplinary issues was then charged with new task of organizing cultural institutes under one umbrella name.. The task force submitted its report to the Provost in December 2008 and recommended that WS and the Institutes become part of an umbrella Institute and report directly to the Provost. In January '09 Provost suggested that Gary English become the executive director of this new umbrella Insitute. WS and Institutes faculty rejected this suggestion and instead proposed an Executive Council that would be composed of 2 representatives from each unit..

- The Executive Council and it had its first meeting last week. Veronica Makowsky charged the Council with the following: By Feb 2010 have in place a mission statement, governance structure, name, and academic plan for the Institute of Institutes and have two co-chairs who will act as facilitators, conveners of the Executive Council rather than as Executive Directors. Michelle Williams and Manisha Desai will serve as co-chairs. The Council also decided that to address the charge the Council should have 4 sub-committees to be co-chaired by one member of the council and the other chair and members for each committee to come from our faculty. Nancy Naples will co-chair the Mission sub-committee; Marysol Ascencio the Governance sub-committee; Ammi Omara-Ottunu the Name sub-committee; and Jeff Ogbar the academic plan.
- There will be a town hall meeting of the WS and Institutes faculty on May 11 from 1-3 pm in the WCTR Programming Room to discuss these issues and the Fall retreat on August 28th to get ready for the charge.
- Discussions included: Amii's part in the council; institutes being reviewed in 2012; the integrative structure of the units and timing of the executive council. Institute structure, etc. would determine resources available. Provost's statement that the budget crisis will have a significant impact on UConn over the next 3 years. Impact will determine our undergrad core focus as well as campus wide consolidation and restructuring. Also discussed: funding sources; budget cuts; processes and transparency; collaborative structure and inequities; disadvantages of WS being moved to CLAS; the Provost's commitment to WS; mission; purpose of academic plan and PTR in regards to women of color.

b) Staffing New Assistant Professor-in-Residence (APiR)

- Provost approved national searches for 2 new WS APiR positions. First search to begin immediately for hire Fall '09, second APiR to be hired by fiscal year 2010.
- Discussions included: starting salary for new APiR with a 3 / 4 course load; how to accommodate new APiR; the exploitative nature of APiR positions; these positions replacing teaching grads; course load manipulation using W course or independent study.

- It was decided that a statement would be distributed to the President, Provost, Office of Diversity and Equity and AAUP, University Senate, Faculty Standards Committee regarding the exploitive nature of the APiR position and their being mainly staffed by women and minorities.

c) Christine Sylvester

- Dr. Sylvester is coming from England through the Political Science Dept. and will be at UConn for 1 year. She will teach a cross listed WS course in the spring and fall.

d) Curriculum – see above

e) Annual Conference:

- The need to address the Annual WS Conference purpose in relation to its cost. Possibility of having a 1 day WS conference with faculty from off campus and local people as speakers every other year in collaboration with other colleges and possibly Honors. Executive Council could be helpful in conference planning. There was a discussion.

f) Programming: Pedagogy/Spotlight

- Announcement of upcoming pedagogy
- It was agreed that beginning next semester the spotlight/pedagogy will be on Wednesdays at noon but not the 1st Wed of the month as it conflicts with PolSci faculty meeting.

g) New Programs:

- Manisha suggested coming up with a Women’s Studies Signature Event and asked members to think about it.

3) Advisory Board Sub-committees Revisited

- It was agreed that the Advisory Board Meetings will go back to being a monthly meeting on the 3rd Wed of each month from 11:30 – 1:00
- 5 sub-committees that were put in place at the Fall Retreat aren’t working as planned and that sub-committees will be formed as needed with several original sub-committees staying in place.
- The C&C and Strategic Plan sub-committee will consist of core faculty, the rest should stay with sub-committees and the sub-committees would be formed as needed. There was a discussion

4) Closing Announcements

- M. Bernstein said that there are still seats in her Sociology of Sexualities Class being offered Fall '09
- N. Naples announced the Feminist Pedagogy course offered Fall '09
- C. Spurlock passed along info from the Environmental Literacy meeting last week that ECO House would like visiting speakers to give talks at ECO House while on campus
- B. Gurr said to be looking for upcoming Triota information

Meeting adjourned at 3:03pm