

Minutes
President's Commission on the Status of Women
October 24, 2018, 2:30 pm
Union 205

1. Welcome and Introductions

Present: Wendy Barnes, Hannah Heatherman, Clara Valadares Kientz, Kiley Moody, Felisa Osburn, Kristin Tobias, Barb Wells, Laura Widenor, Debra Wilcox

2. Overview of charge and purpose of the Commission

Reviews the roles, needs and opportunities of women, students, faculty, unclassified professionals, and university support staff at K-State and makes recommendations for change where appropriate.

3. Past projects, reports and minutes

a. Professional Development Fund:

The \$5,000 is available for both the Fall and Spring semester this academic year. Last year we had 16 applicants, making the distribution of awards more competitive than it has been in years past.

b. Communications:

The website has been updated with current commission members. It still needs last year's report to the President and the lactation station history.

c. Health and Safety Fliers:

Fliers are too large for the plastic inserts, so we need to come up with another use for them. The list of rooms is accurate; however, there are buildings missing. GWISE presented a flier about gender-neutral restrooms, we need to follow-up with them to see what the status of the flier is and if it is available. There is an old flier about Counseling Services in some of the bathrooms that needs to be removed if sighted.

d. Lactation Rooms:

Last year all lactation rooms were visited, inventoried, and photographed so we could determine the needs of each room. We acquired two gliders, one of which was placed in Willard and the other of which is at Global campus needing a repair to the seat cushion. Previous members shared the history of the lactation rooms, which will be posted on the website for interested viewers. Finally, we did find out that all new construction on campus (since Justin), even building improvements, must include a lactation room.

e. Climate Survey Meeting Update:

Wendy and Felisa attended a meeting set-up by Brian Samuels, with the leaders of the affinity groups across campus, to discuss the 2014 Climate Survey results and any progress that had been made. Please review the attached notes prior to the next meeting, as we will discuss this and share thoughts about what is needing to be addressed. Felisa added that Dr. Samuels had concerns about the six-figure price tag involved in contracting with an outside company. Clara expressed concern that an internal survey would potentially not be evidence-based.

4. Projects for 2018-2019

a. Professional Development Fund:

The President's office has budgeted the \$5,000 for both Fall and Spring this academic year, making it crucial that this workgroup meet as soon as possible. It was established an immediate need for this group is a chair to be in charge of responding to inquiries regarding applications. (I asked Felisa if she could chair it for the Fall due to the need to act quickly for this semester.) The workgroup should be added to the website with a deadline for submissions. Since awards are not given out until Spring the group will only need to meet once or twice to review applications and determine who will receive money. Once the decisions are made, the Chair will send out the award letters, as well as notify those who were not selected.

b. Communications:

Minutes and other important documents need to be added to the site over the course of the year. Updates to workgroup descriptions need to be made in a timely manner. The website needs to be given some eye appeal.

c. Health and Safety Fliers:

The plastic inserts need to be placed in all the restrooms on-campus. A LEAD class is interested in doing a project on Bystander Intervention; it is possible a new flier could be created as part of the class project. There is an old flier about Counseling Services in some of the bathrooms that needs to be removed if sighted.

d. Lactation Rooms:

The appearance of the rooms needs to be improved by adding posters and other pleasing décor. A small table is needed for Willard. Wendy will check with Counseling Services to see if there is any leftover furniture that needs to be disposed of; if there is some available we will take it. It would be nice if there were fliers/brochures available for nursing mothers, as well as other pertinent reading material. There needs to be an increase in awareness of our website and links to other websites, making this information accessible to all students needing to use a lactation room. It was suggested we hang the large lactation fliers in each lactation room.

e. Climate Survey:

The notes will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting. A working group was established to address this topic. It was pointed out that the 2014 survey only had one question about sexual violence. A suggestion was put forward that if the Climate Survey is done again we ask that there be more questions about this topic.

f. Other ideas?:

Review the sexual violence policy again
ASAP issues

5. Selection of project work groups:

a. Professional Development Fund

Stephanie Bannister
Soumia Burdhan
Sarah Reznikoff
Kristin Tobias
Felisa Osburn--Chair
Barb Wells

b. Communications

Jayme Reid

Debra Wilcox

c. Health and Safety Fliers

Sara Thurston

Clara Valadares Kientz

Hannah Heatherman

d. Lactation Rooms

Kate Behan

Laura Widenor

Felisa Osburn

e. Climate Survey

Laura Widenor

Hannah Heatherman

Kiley Moody

6. Other items of discussion:

Sexual violence policy: Last year members met with President Meyer and the members present, to their best recollection is that he said there would be no change to the policy while he is in his current position. Do we wish to pursue this?

ASAP issues: Several groups on-campus has issues with this mandatory training for students. Is this something we want to address? What is the feasibility and/or existence of this type of mandatory training for faculty/staff? Can we look into this and see if it exists or if it is possible to implement?

7. Fall Meeting Schedule

a. November 14 from 11 am-12 pm in Union Konza

b. December 19 from 3 pm-4 pm in Union

8. Adjourn