Women’s & Gender Studies Council
MINUTES for November 9, 2011
History Conference Room, 4-5pm

Present: Julie Campbell, Pari Ford, Carrie Kracl, Janice Fronczak, Monica Mueller, Rebecca Sevela (student rep), Betsy Lewis (student rep), Amber Lewis, Linda Van Ingen (chair).


The meeting was called to order at 4pm.

Minutes from October 12, 2011 were approved by email on 10-26-11 and sent to Faculty Senate.

Membership update: Monica Mueller (Asst. Director of OMA) was introduced as the new staff representative.

1. Co-Curricular:
Members discussed the following events as well as ways the WGS Program can collaborate with other organizations. The new Orgsync program was also discussed with agreement that although it is still underutilized, it has potential.

- Vagina Monologues: Feb 2 & 3. Jenna Workman is the student director and auditions were held Nov. 9. Triota money may be used as starting cash for buttons etc. to sell at the event. Triota students can help sell these items as well as tickets.
- No Limits!: March 2 & 3 at UNO. Keynote speaker is Dr. Michael Kimmel (Masculinities). The CFP is out with abstracts due January 27. Van Ingen will send the flyer out via email.
- Triota Update: Sevela said the “Sexting” RAG session by Dr. Wysocki was a success with over 40 people in attendance. She said Triota is trying to build new membership and has been using Orgsync. She also requested suggestions for future RAG sessions and speakers next semester.
- QSA: those who attended the new Safe Zone Training agreed that it was very successful, very well done, and they recommend others attend next year. QSA is planning a Drag contest for December.
- OMA: Mueller said her work with service learning students from WSTD 220 is going very well. She said OMA also sponsors the Sister-to-Sister group and QSA. Both student groups are very strong. She also announced an event on Thursday, November 10 called “Saving Ladies’ Beauty” sponsored by Sigma Lambda Beta.
- Reynolds Writers Series: Joy Harjo, Muscogee feminist performer for Native American Month, at Merryman on Nov. 15 at 8:30pm. Free. Encourage students to attend.
- Police & Parking Services are offering the following trainings:
  - Drug & Alcohol Awareness: Nov 9 from 7-8pm in Ockinga
  - Sexual Assault Prevention: Nov 16 from 7-8pm in Ockinga
- Gender Equity Committee: GE Members noted the successful work for new partner benefits in the NU system, and said the committee is making plans to focus on one new topic for this year.

2. Curricular:

Van Ingen noted that many new changes or potential changes need to be resolved before a new WGS Program brochure can be printed. These changes include resolving the issue of the WSTD 420 capstone and GS capstones, whether WSTD 420 should be WI (depending on status changes to WI requirements), and the impact of 125/120 hrs shift on minor degree requirements since many departments are reducing their electives. Does this mean we should reduce the credit hour requirements for a WGS minor degree? Members also discussed the possibility of creating a WGS major. Fronczak agreed to look into both the credit hour requirements for minor degrees, and what’s involved in creating a major. Currently, it takes 24 credit hours for a WGS minor, and there is no major degree.
• The WSTD 220 introductory course was discussed. Amber Lewis will be the adjunct instructor for spring 2012, although this appointment still needs final approval. Members also discussed the new Honors Program requirement that the WSTD 220 Honors section be for Honors students only. There was some discussion about how this would impact enrollment in the course. The Thompson Scholars program was also mentioned as a good example of having students from one program in a class, and also as a possibility for a future WSTD 220 course.

• Other curricular items: The new DVD list was circulated; Spring 2012 bookmarks were distributed and will be mailed; the Summer & Fall 2012 Schedule needs to be submitted; Van Ingen will send out an announce email requesting new courses for WGS elective credit.

3. Assessment: Members will continue discussion on the new Learning Outcomes and Mapping project at the next meeting.

4. Budget Update: Van Ingen asked members to consider and suggest budget items. Budget decisions will be made over email or at the next meeting, after carry-forward money from last year is confirmed in the account. The following proposals were briefly discussed: No Limits travel costs to Omaha; Dubai registration for one student; faculty development travel request from Diane Wysocki for conference on White Privilege (and can take a student); new laptop for the WGS Program to replace one that is about 7 years old.

5. There will be no meeting in December, except possibly by email for budget decisions. The next meeting will be on January 18 at 4pm in History Conference Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm (Campbell/Fronczak)