Women’s & Gender Studies Advisory Council (WGSAC)
MINUTES
October 9, 2013
History Conference Room (104 Copeland Hall)

Present: Susan Honeyman, Deb Freedman, Toni Hill, Jeanne Stolzer, Tone Mendoza, Monica Mueller, Jenna Jorgensen (student rep), Amber Lewis, Sandra Loughrin (guest), Linda Van Ingen (chair)

Absent: Julie Campbell, Pari Ford, Grace Mims, Carrie Kracl, Trish Holen.

Van Ingen called the meeting to order at 4:15pm.

Minutes from September 11, 2013 were approved by email.

A. Curricular

1. The New Major: “Women’s, Gender and Ethnic Studies” -- Van Ingen reported on the possibility of placing the Women’s, Gender, Ethnic Studies director within a CNSS department with a half-time faculty line. Members discussed what this job description would entail, including course load issues. A combined intro course (Women’s, Gender and Ethnic Studies) would ideally be taught once each semester, plus a senior seminar. So 3 classes are needed a year but a half-time position with a course-release for administrating the program would allow only 2 courses a year for WGE. Given this 1-1 course load for WGE (with the other 1-1 classes for the host department), members offered suggestions such as placing the Senior seminar in the Fall, and intro class in the spring to give time to recruit for the spring class (and to give students time to finish a research project). Also, an adjunct for a night class could keep the intro class on campus and offered every semester. Other questions raised concerned the risk of losing the predominance of women’s studies in a blended course with Ethnic Studies, as well as the risk of losing the WGE program if faced with competing demands from its host department. Members suggested that the job description/contract put in writing the duties of the new director and course load requirements so Women’s & Gender Studies (and Ethnic Studies) are securely defined for the long-term. They also suggested that current Women’s & Gender Studies faculty members (and/or the current director) serve on the search committee. Overall, members agreed that the opportunity to situate the Women’s &Gender Studies program (and Ethnic Studies) within a department with a ½ time faculty line out-weighed the risks and was worth pursuing. It would support the new proposed major (“Women’s, Gender & Ethnic Studies”) and give the program the attention it needs from a qualified faculty member hired specifically for the purpose of directing and teaching in the program. Members voted unanimously to pursue this opportunity (Stolzer/Freedman).

2. On-line collaboration with UNO – Van Ingen noted that the UNO director is moving forward with on-line course offerings. UNK can participate more fully once we can offer the new major and hire a new director.

3. Assessment – Members reviewed the 2012-2013 Report and agreed to change the wording on measure 5 from “Write as professional scholars in Women’s & Gender Studies” to “Write as academics following the standards of the profession.”

4. Course list: Van Ingen circulated the list of WGS courses approved for Spring 2014. It is also on the WGS webpage. She encouraged faculty to share this information with colleagues and students who may be interested in adding the minor degree to their academic program.

5. New courses: Members reviewed and approved R. Umland’s ENG 490 ST, “Love in the Western World” for elective credit on a one-term basis since this class is a special topics class (approved Honeyman/Lewis). Longo’s PSCI 388 “GS Capstone: Politics of Love” will be reviewed at the November meeting. Members also discussed criteria required for elective courses (basically ½ content should be related to Women’s/Gender issues and, ideally, instructor employs a feminist pedagogy which includes student-centered, collaborative learning). A question about multiple instructors for courses was raised, with members noting that courses are approved by instructor, not by course, so any new instructors for previously approved courses should re-submit a course syllabus for approval. Van Ingen will follow-up.

B. Budget: Van Ingen reported that she was assured by Administration that money for WGS budget will be allocated. She noted that there was a $600 carry-forward from 2012-2013. This paid for two WGS faculty (Van Ingen
and Campbell) to attend a webinar on women's leadership and negotiations ($199 each). Members approved $200 in travel for Amber Lewis to attend an AAUW conference on teaching women’s and gender studies courses in the high schools (Mendoza/Mueller).

C. Co-Curricular

1. **No Limits 2014 at UNK in Kearney:** March 7 (Friday; one day) in Ponderosa Rooms. Van Ingen will circulate the CFP the week of October 14. The due date for abstracts will be mid-January. Members will discuss the conference in further detail at the November meeting. The tentative plan is as follows:
   a. Theme “Intersectionality: Gender, Race and Class.”
      i. Keynote speaker confirmed: Dr. Shireen Roshanravan (WS faculty at Kansas State; critical race theory & intersectionality of race/sexuality/gender)
      ii. Conference schedule:
         - 8-9:30am: Registration (coffee, rolls, fruit)
         - 9:30-10:50: Session #1 (4 panels of 3 students possible; 4 sessions = 48 presenters)
         - 11-12 noon: Keynote Speaker Dr. Roshanravan
         - 12-12:45: Lunch (complimentary for presenters and pre-registered; in Sandhills Room)
         - 1-2:20: Session #2
         - 2:30-3:50: Session #3
         - 3:50-4:10: Poster Session (coffee, cookies, fruit) (tables available in NSU; will need setup)
         - 4:10-5:30: Session #4
         - 5:30pm: Closing Reception
   b. things to consider:
      - CFP date/email announce in October
      - Large middle room:
         - Poster session in large middle room.
         - Info tables with materials related to WGS? (Triota, QSA, WCtr, SAFE Ctr, PFLAG, Sister-to-Sister, Social Justice, Amnesty Int’l etc.)
         - Art work?
         - Keynote in large middle room?
         - Other ideas for this space?
      - Posters and postcards
      - Email list
      - Pre-registration process
      - Setting up the panels
      - Will need faculty moderators
      - Hotels – block some rooms for Thurs and Fri nights
      - Make/print a program
      - Help at the conference – registrations, moderators, hosting (students, faculty)
      - Chartwells – am coffee/rolls; pm coffee/snack; lunch – complimentary?
        - Vegetarian/GF?!
      - Budget
      - Things to do in Kearney – list of restaurants, tourist spots, Sandhill Cranes?
      - Other ideas??

2. **Updates:**
   a. **QSA:** Mueller reported that QSA T-shirt sales were this week and that a Matthew Shepard memorial event will take place on Thursday October 10.
   b. **OMA:** Mueller reported that Sister-to-Sister is organizing the “Big Pink” volleyball tournament for October 23 for breast cancer awareness and to raise funds for local Good Sam. Cancer Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm (Mendoza/Stolzer).

The next meeting is on November 13 at 4:15.