

Committee on the Status of Women

Minutes from Meeting 11 March 2015, Eielson 304C, 2:15-3:15p

Present:

Erin Pettit (phone), Ellen Lopez, Diana Di Stefano, Jane Weber, Kayt Sunwood, Mary Erlander, Megan McPhee

1. Conversation Café Recap

The conversation café focused on mentoring.

Erin mentioned two formal courses on mentoring at UAF that she knew of: Mentoring in Sciences (2 credit course taught by Erin Pettit, offered last fall, considering offering again next fall) – generally grad students in sciences who take it, particularly those in scientific teaching and outreach certificate program (new program - 12 cr of teaching, outreach, mentoring in addition to regular graduate program).

Sarah Hayes also teaches course about mentoring undergrads through a research project (primarily a chem lab class)

Conv Café and recent conversation about peer mentoring groups at UW. Erin mentioned a colleague at UW who mentioned peer mentoring among women faculty there as part of their ADVANCE program, based loosely on the book “Every Other Thursday”

<http://www.amazon.com/Every-Other-Thursday-Strategies-Successful/dp/0300510845>

- keep small – 8 individuals about right
- meet regularly (every other week or so)
- UW ADVANCE program kick-started the peer mentoring activity at UW

For Fall Conversation Café: focus on peer mentoring as a topic, advertise far in advance to gain interest.

Attractive aspects of peer mentoring: collaborative, cross-disciplinary, formal ‘bridge building’

2. P&T Workshop

Flyer: Kayt’s working on it

Details to include:

Apr 24, 10a-12p; 12p-1p for follow up discussion

Location: will be sure 30 days ahead (Board of Regents conference room reserved as of now)

Distance connection - TBA

Panelists:

Alex Fitts

Diana DiStefano – associate; history

Ellen Lopez – CLA; 4th year review
Diana Wolf - associate, sciences
Sandra Wildfeuer – associate; math/I-AC
Ginny Eckert – full, sciences
Mike West (research faculty) – will be invited by Diana

Program:
introductory comments:
Alex – 5 minutes
Others - 3 min
Followed by questions

*Mary Erlander volunteered to step off panel to keep the number lower, but she will be present to answer questions.

Jayne has food lined up; being paid for from Faculty Senate budget

General feeling that the panel will be different this year, given high levels of budget anxiety – make sure to leave lots of time for questions for Alex in particular.

Do we want to ask people to send questions ahead of time? But we're still trying to focus on planning strategically- maybe save the small/detailed questions for the extra hour at the end of the session. Alex can set the stage with the focus on planning strategically while acknowledging that people will have a lot of concerns this year. [Alex wasn't asked to stay for the extra hour; Mary will see if she's available for that]

Maybe have someone standing by to write down questions that are getting a bit off-topic for first part of workshop, to be brought up in the last hour.

3. CSW is co-sponsoring a book circle on “Presumed Incompetent: The Intersections of Race and Class for Women in Academia” (co-sponsored with Rasmuson Library)
Apr 20, 5-6:30p in Kayak Room (Kayt is also arranging a distance connection)

Info on CSW Website, Faculty Senate website, Cornerstone, faculty email listserve
Kayt will send Jayne info about it to get it on listserve

4. Spousal Hires

Emerging issue – we are losing faculty (in a small department = major impact) due to this issue. More often affecting women faculty. Hard to deal with this issue in face of current budget crisis; we are facing loss of term faculty positions already in place.

Do we have information about trailing spouses? How many, gender ratio, etc. We can also learn from specific cases – those that seemed to work, those that didn't.

Next meeting: 8 Apr 2015 2:15-3:15p; 304C Eielson