

Status of Women Council
Meeting minutes from 1/9/07

Meeting commenced 1:15pm
Meeting adjourned 2:30

In attendance: Eve Weinbaum, Joanne Levenson, Madeleine Charney, Nancy Patterson, Howard Peelle, Aura Ganz, Marianne Winters, Lynn McLandsborough, Judy Goodenough, Robin ?

The focus of the meeting was the upcoming event scheduled for Friday, April 6, 2007, 12-2:30 (including a light lunch).

The current working title of this “summit” is *Creating a Family Friendly Workplace at UMass-Amherst*.

Joanne Levenson and Madeleine Charney will co-chair the project. Joanne is pursuing room arrangements. Eve is checking into the potential budget. Nancy will find out the amount Lottie Baylen (MIT, past speaker at UMass, potential keynote speaker) was given for an honorarium (if anything).

It was imagined that this summit could be SOWC’s “first annual.” By keeping our focus fairly narrow, we can begin building momentum and expanding the issues/topics year-by-year. For that reason, issues such as gender equity pay and domestic violence and educational access may not be included this year.

A suggestion was made that we co-host the summit with the Status of Minorities Council.

Evolving ideas so far:

Goal: Collectively envision a more family-friendly workplace at UMass-Amherst

Objectives: Outline selected key issues to attendees; record and store outcomes of the summit; empower union reps to make their constituents’ needs known to their respective unions and the Administration;

Format for the summit:

Keynote speaker (during ½ hour lunch) followed by break-out sessions (3-4) by topic. Sessions will be facilitated by SOWC member, who will also be scribes. Wish lists will be generated and reported back to the whole group by scribes. Information will be collated, posted and archived to build a solid foundation for progress in these areas. We roughly anticipated 100 people in attendance. We estimated that \$1,500 (from the Provost’s office?) will cover all costs.

Issues/Topics:

Progressive family benefits at Harvard, UC-Berkley, other schools (contrast w/ UMass-Amherst)
Child care
Elder care
Flexible work schedules to accommodate (child/elder care)

Maternity/paternity leave

Definition of “family”

Balancing family life with work life (i.e. wellness)

Existing family benefits (e.g. domestic partnership, family leave)

Variation from union to union regarding family benefits

How motherhood “makes you smarter” (several recent studies published in this area, including NYT editorial printed at the end of Dec. 06)

Speakers:

Someone from Harvard (new Provost just ok’ed \$68 million for new child care center)

Someone from UC-Berkeley (the Dean in charge of their progressive family benefits)

Suzanne Bump (Human Services Transition Team for Deval Patrick’s office)

Naomi Gerstell (UMass, Sociology, doing research on work/family/flex time)

Nancy Folbre

Bonna Subermaniam

Lottie Baylen (MIT, possible keynote speaker)

Nancy Deprosse (MTA, Regional Director in Springfield)

Maureen Perry Jenkins (UMass, doing research on families)

Carie Anne O’Meara (UMass, School of Ed., doing research on family leave)

Work-life office at UMass: Susan Pearson, Mary Dean Sorcenelli, Matt Ouellette

Ideas for promotion, resources, etc.:

Use the existing SOWC website (through Faculty Senate) to post updates

Administer a survey prior to the summit

Get data from Office of Institutional Research

Consider AUP study for gender equity pay (may be too off topic, considering our focus)

Consider new report from Massachusetts Commission on Status of Women (Marianne/EWC is hosting an event on 3/6/07 centered on this report)

We all recognized that this summit is a substantial undertaking. Please contact Madeleine Charney mcharney@library.umass.edu or Joanne Levenson levenson@stuaf.umass.edu if you’d like to take an active role in making this summit happen.

Please pardon any errors I may have made with the spelling of names, etc. and send corrections directly to me.

Respectfully submitted,
Madeleine Charney