Women’s Studies Advisory Council (WSAC)
MINUTES for April 7, 2009
History Conference Room (Copeland Hall 104) 4-5pm

Present: Julie Campbell, Patricia Cruzeiro, Carrie Kracl, Nyla Khan, Tami Moore, Janice Fronczak, Sheryl Heidenreich, Laurel McKellips, Demaris Grant, Heather Towndrow (student rep), Linda Van Ingen (chair).

Absent: Diane Wysocki, Darleen Mitchell, Larry Hughes, Amy German, Rachael Broadwell (student rep).

1. Minutes from March 11 were approved (Cruzeiro/Khan)

2. Members agreed that 4pm on the second Wednesday of each month was a good meeting time for Fall 2009.

3. Mission statement for web page: Members approved the following new mission statement (Fronczak/Cruzeiro)

   Women’s and Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary program that places women at the center of inquiry and explores gender as a system of relations and power. It values the diversity of race, sexuality and class and it empowers students to confront an increasingly complex world.

4. Curriculum update:
   a. Bookmarks for Summer/Fall 2009 courses; Flyers for JMC 425 and PSCI 378; please encourage enrollment.
   b. Members discussed developing a WMST course “Study Abroad: Transnational Feminism.” This would be a 1-3 credit course for study abroad with a WGS/feminist curriculum. Students going to Dubai conference, for example, could earn 1 credit. The Thailand Trip (sponsored by Wysocki) could be developed to meet curricular standards. WSTD 220 should be a prerequisite. Members agreed that Van Ingen should pursue this possibility. (Khan/Towndrow).
   c. General Studies New Plan and status of WS courses: Members discussed how the WSTD 220 course could meet the new General Studies requirements. After some discussion, members agreed the Portal would be the best fit (especially with the interdisciplinary focus, service learning component, and CD). Van Ingen will work to revise the course for review/Ed Policy in the Fall.

5. Budget: If the budget allows, members agreed that WGS should purchase pens/pencils/supplies to help promote the program. Also, Van Ingen said a printer is needed. A workstudy student will be hired again next year.

6. Women’s Center: McKellips reported that the “Lactation Room” is being publicized with posters; there will be canned food/supplies drive for FAN on April 14 in NSU; Julie Campbell will speak on “Dating Violence” on April 23 at 4pm in the Women’s Center (158 MSAB); WC has been receiving book donations and is building a library collection that will be catalogued – donations are welcome. WC is putting a brochure together with WGS for promotion including at SAE events this summer.

7. Triota: Towndrow reported that the forum “Debate on Welfare” with Dr. Stolzer and Dr. Anderson went very well. Triota would like to do more such events in the future. Triota is also holding an initiation for members on May 1 at 2pm in the Women’s Center. All WSAF are invited. WGS will provide snacks. On May 2 at 8pm, Triota is meeting for an end-of-the-year Drag Party at The Roman. Triota also has made T-shirts, which are for sale at $12 each.
8. QSA (Queer/Straight Student Alliance): McKellips reported that QSA is holding a Day of Silence on April 17 (candlelight vigil at fountain, followed by filming of “The Laramie Project”); April 21 QSA is sponsoring a Pink Triangle Training session in the Ponderosa room (open to the campus and Kearney community). Information from QSA states that there will be two sessions lasting 2 hours each: 3-5 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m. Professor Matt Mims will be presenting the information and training so that at the end of a session one will have the requirements needed to hang the SafeZone Pink Triangle at their residence or office so that LGBTQ students will know that they have a safe place to go. This training session is directed at people who are LGBTQ supporters. At the end of the session, each person will receive laminated Pink Triangles and a certificate of their accomplishment. QSA meets regularly on Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. in the Martin’s East Basement. The QSA (affiliated with OMA) has received official status as a student group from Student Senate and is getting a faculty sponsor.

9. Extra-curricular Programs:
   a. 20th Anniversary Celebration for Spring 2009. The last two co-sponsored events (March 26 Dr. Amy Bix and April 7 Gary Phillips) were well attended. Members agreed that co-sponsorship was a good way to support programs related to WGS; they are encouraged to identify events for next year.

   b. A forum, “What is Women’s & Gender Studies,” will be organized for next Fall before Advising.

10. V-Day “Vagina Monologues:” Grant has scheduled the show for February 18 & 19, 2010 in the Recital Hall.

11. No Limits Undergraduate Research Conference – Van Ingen reported that the e-journal, No Limits! An Online Journal of Women’s and Gender Studies, is being launched this semester at UNO. This is a journal for undergraduate research and is modeled along the lines of the No Limits conference. The editor will be Dr. Suzanne Moshier, Associate Director of Women’s Studies at UNO. She is soliciting submissions for review and the first issue is expected December 2009. Associate editors are Dr. Henry d’Souza, Dr. Laura Grams, Dr. Susan Maher, and Dr. Karen Falconer Al-Hindi. If any faculty members from UNK are interested in serving as an associate editor, please contact Van Ingen. Faculty are also encouraged to mentor student research for both the conference at UNL next March and for the e-journal.

12. Recruitment:
   a. WC and WGS are creating a brochure/postcard that will highlight their respective programs.
   b. WGS logo: members viewed logo possibilities and discussed the need to sharpen “product recognition”
   c. plans for summer recruitment – members discussed ways to improve recruitment over the summer, including getting more supplies with logo/WGS name; getting a list of representatives from each college for the SAE events and distributing bookmarks/other materials.

   a. 20th Anniversary events
   b. Renaming WS to Women’s & Gender Studies and improving publicity (with bookmarks etc.)
   c. Student mentorship – research presented at No Limits; Dubai conference
   d. Collaborative work with Women’s Center
   e. Student activity in Triota

14. Other business:
   a. Gender Equity Committee update: Van Ingen briefly reported from the Gender Equity 2009 Report.
   b. Assessment: Laurel McKellips and Demaris Grant volunteered to do the WSTD 420 Assessment on April 21 at 3:30pm in the Women’s Center.
Women’s & Gender Studies Advisory Council  
MINUTES for September 9, 2009  
History Conference Room

Present: Julie Campbell, Debra Mowry, Grace Mims, Carrie Kracl, Nyla Khan, Tami Moore, Janice Fronczak, Sheryl Heidenreich, Trish Holen, Demaris Grant, Rachael Broadwell (student rep), Heather Towndrow (student rep), Linda Van Ingen (chair).  
Absent: Darleen Mitchell

The meeting was called to order by Van Ingen at 4:05pm.

1. Minutes of April 7, 2009 were approved (Campbell/Fronczak).

2. Fall Programs:
   a. Khan asked for WGS co-sponsorship for a speaker from UNO’s Afghan Center. He will speak about the latest developments in Afghanistan, including the status of women. Members supported the idea and the date of November 5 is a possibility.
   b. Van Ingen suggested that WGS co-sponsor a talk by Paula Rieder of Slippery Rock University (Pennsylvania) on her recent research addressing gender in the Medieval Period. She can be the keynote speaker at the Fall 2009 WS Affiliated Faculty and student gathering. The week before October break was identified, with a preference for October 15. Fronczak volunteered to reserve the Alumni House and place the Chartwells order once the date is confirmed.
   c. Mims agreed to speak on a Women’s & Gender Studies panel that will focus on two questions: 1) What is Women’s & Gender Studies? 2) What are the career possibilities with WGS? A second panelist will be a student from Triota, and a third panelist has yet to be identified. Mims agreed to contact the Career Center/Career Fair for suggestions for a date; Fronczak will make some community contacts for another panelist (Good Sam Hospital and possibly the UNK Alumni Directory and Gold Torch alumni). Van Ingen will look into possible dates around Jr/Sr. day.
   d. A Women’s Symposium, organized by Residential & Greek Life, will be held on November 3 at 1-4:30pm. It will focus on healthy relationships with speakers from across campus. WGS is a co-sponsor of the program.

3. Curriculum Update:
   ENG 217 Beginning Poetry was adopted as a new WGS elective course (Mims, Fronczak)