Women’s Studies Advisory Council (WSAC)
MINUTES for October 8, 2008
History Conference Room – 104 Copeland Hall, 4-5pm

Present: Julie Campbell, Diane Wysocki, Patricia Cruzeiro, Carrie Kracl, Nyla Khan, Darleen Mitchell, Tami Moore, Amy German, Laurel McKellips, Demaris Grant, Linda Van Ingen (chair).

Absent: Larry Hughes, Janice Fronczak, Sheryl Heidenreich, Sarah Elger (student rep), Amber Lewis (student rep), Deb Bridges (ex-officio).

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

1. Minutes from our last meeting on September 10, 2008 were approved by email on 9-29-08.

2. Assessment Report update: members reviewed the Women’s Studies Assessment Report and agreed that specific analytical terms can be added to the assessment process in the future. Mitchell and Van Ingen will bring a list of terms to the next meeting for consideration. The WS General Studies report will be discussed via email upon its completion.

3. Curriculum update: Van Ingen handed out Bookmarks with the Spring 2009 schedule & other course flyers, for distribution when advising. Two courses were added to the curriculum for elective credit: Darleen Mitchell’s MUS 499 “Women’s Music in the Global Village” for Spring 2009 only (approved Wysocki/Khan); Nyla Khan’s ENG 253 “Intro Lit: Non-Western” (approved Mitchell/ Cruzeiro). Van Ingen also announced the new Public Health Minor that is being offered by Biology department.

4. Budget update: Van Ingen noted expenditures including four digital recorders for the WS Senior Seminar oral history project, funds to help co-sponsor extra-curricular programs, money for a Workstudy and possibly a second Workstudy for next semester. Members also discussed the possibility of awarding several $300 travel grants to WS Affiliated Faculty. Van Ingen will create the criteria and seek formal approval for the process. Van Ingen also asked members to think of ways to increase the Women’s Studies scholarship fund with the UNK Foundation. Currently WS can only offer two small scholarships of about $150 each.

5. Women’s Center update: McKellips reported the success of the “Sex Signals” event on October 1. The Fine Arts theater filled to capacity. The collaboration between the Women’s Center and Women’s Studies is going well. The WS Work Study helps in the Women’s Center two or three mornings a week, and WS students from the WS220 class who are doing a service-learning project have been helping with Women’s Center programs. Upcoming events for October include a “Healthy Relationships Screening” on October 22 and a movie night TBA. Van Ingen will forward the information by email once McKellips finalizes the program.
6. WGSO/Triota: student plans for ‘08-’09: Van Ingen reported that the Student Organization Fair went well. Many students stopped by the table and the I-Pod drawing sponsored by Triota was successful. Sarah Elger is organizing several meetings and a movie event this month. Van Ingen also noted that the group is calling itself the “Women’s & Gender Studies Student Organization” with Triota reserved for those in the Honor Society graduating with a 3.0 or higher. These Triota students will receive a medallion for graduation. There was some discussion about the medallion and the process of receiving one.

7. QSA (Queer/Straight Alliance): Van Ingen reported that this new student group is now holding regular meetings on Wednesday evenings.

8. Extra-curricular Programs: Members agreed that WS would co-sponsor the following events with funds where possible:


   b. Women’s Studies Affiliated Faculty and students are invited to a WS Fall Gathering at MONA, 5-7pm on Thursday, November 6. Fronczak has made arrangements with MONA for space and tables, and she will order food/hors d’oeuvres from Chartwells for $200. Mitchell is arranging for music. Van Ingen will email/send out invitations. All members are encouraged to attend and to bring other WSAF and WS students.

   c. Nov 13: Dr. Amy Bix (Iowa State History Dept.) will be speaking on “Women in American Engineering: Educational Challenges and Opportunities, 1875-2008.” Liubov Kreminska in Physics is seeking an Arts & Lecturers Grant for this talk. Women’s Studies agreed to co-sponsor the event with $100. (approved Amy German/Julie Campbell).

   d. 20th Anniversary Celebration for Spring 2009. Members agreed to co-sponsor the following events and publicize them as part of the program’s 20th Anniversary celebration:

      i. Feb 5-6: “Vagina Monologues” Fine Arts Recital Hall (organized/directed by Grant)

      ii. Feb 12: Dr. Stephen Behrendt, “Recovering Romantic-era Women Writers” (co-sponsor with Explorations Lecture Series). WS will provide reception following the lecture; 142 Copeland Hall. (organized by Benzel, English, who is seeking an A&L grant) ($200 approved Moore/Khan)

      iii. April 7: Gary Phillips (Human Trafficking), “To Catch a Predator: The International Exploitation of Children” (organized by Wysocki, Sociology, who is seeking an A&L grant) ($200 approved Cruzeiro/German).

      iv. TBA: Women in Afghanistan? – Khan and Van Ingen will look into this possibility and will contact UNO’s Center for Afghan Studies. This event could be scheduled in March for Women’s History Month and the WS
program’s celebration, possibly at the Alumni House with WS alumni invited (as well as all faculty and current students).

v. TBA: A Music performance by/organized by (?) Jan Harriott was also mentioned as a possibility for the Spring Anniversary events. Mitchell will look into this.

9. Thailand Study Abroad trip: Wysocki will report with an update at the next meeting.

10. No Limits Undergraduate Research Conference – in Omaha on March 6 & 7. Do you have students with research projects?

The meeting was adjourned at 5pm (approved German/Grant).

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 12 at 4-5pm in History Conference Room.