Women’s Studies Advisory Council (WSAC)
MINUTES for December 10, 2008
Founders Conference Room #2147, 4-5pm

Present:  Diane Wysocki, Patricia Cruzeiro, Nyla Khan, Sheryl Heidenreich, Laurel McKellips, Demaris Grant, Sarah Elger (student rep), Linda Van Ingen (chair).

Absent: Julie Campbell, Carrie Kracl, Darleen Mitchell, Tami Moore, Larry Hughes, Janice Fronczak, Amy German, Amber Lewis (student rep), Deb Bridges (ex-officio).

1. Minutes from the last meeting on November 12, 2008 were approved by email on 11-20-08 and sent to Faculty Senate.

2. Assessment update: Thanks to Amy German and Larry Hughes for conducting the Focus Group assessment for WS 420.

3. Curriculum update:
   a. Summer 2009 and Fall 2009 schedules are in progress.
   b. WS220 – Van Ingen reported that an instructor rotation is needed for the WS220 and she asked for names of possible instructors. She also suggested that the curriculum for the class be addressed in the future. We currently use a very good textbook and we have added a service learning component. We have also been working with the Honors program.
   c. Study Abroad: Van Ingen noted that the Thailand trip will not be offered this year, but that a study abroad opportunity may be something we should consider for WS in the future.

4. APR – (scheduled for Spring 2010). Van Ingen asked for suggestions for an outside reviewer. There was some discussion about the WS directors from the other NU campuses.

5. Work Study for next semester: Van Ingen introduced Rachael Broadwell as the new workstudy student for Spring 2009. She will be working on the new brochure, newsletter, and 20th Anniversary poster.

6. Women’s Center: McKellips said her focus next semester will be on applying for grants for the WC. Wysocki said she would forward some information about grants that WS applied for in the past. Program events for next semester include a brown bag presentation on safe sex and birth control information for January, and several events for Eating Disorder Awareness Month in February. Student volunteers from the WS220 class have been planning these events. The “Hot Cocoa & Tea” open house for dead week went well but attendance was lower than expected.

7. WGSO/Triota students: Sarah Elger thanked the WSAC for the flowers and card she received. She said that while she wasn’t able to do as much as she planned this semester, new students are getting involved in Triota and have been coming to the meetings.

8. QSA (Queer/Straight Student Alliance): McKellips and Van Ingen noted that the group is still getting organized, and that a student rep is invited to serve on both the WC and WS advisory boards. The faculty advisor for QSA is from OMA.

9. Extra-curricular Programs:
   a. Feb 5-6: “Vagina Monologues” Fine Arts Recital Hall: Demaris Grant is the director and she reported that auditions are being held this week, December 10 & 11, from 5-7pm. The show will be early next semester, so we should plan to publicize the event as soon as the semester starts.

   b. 20th Anniversary Celebration for Spring 2009. A number of events will be promoted together as part of the WS anniversary. Details should be finalized in January so that posters etc. can be made.
i. Feb 12: Dr. Stephen Behrendt, “Recovering Romantic-era Women Writers” (co-sponsor with Explorations Lecture Series; has been funded by A&L grant). WS will provide reception following the lecture in 142 Copeland Hall (organized by Benzel).

ii. March 9: (Women’s History Month): Jan Harriott's recital, "Celebrating Women Composers: A Recital of Clarinet Works." Fine Arts Recital Hall at 7:30 pm. (organized/contact Darleen Mitchell).

iii. April 7: Gary Phillips (Human Trafficking), “To Catch a Predator: The International Exploitation of Children” (organized by Wysocki)


v. TBA: Women in Afghanistan? (organized by Khan)


10. No Limits Undergraduate Research Conference – in Omaha on March 6& 7. Van Ingen encouraged faculty to mentor students for the conference. The CFP is due January 30th. See http://www.unomaha.edu/wmst/conference.php

11. Other business:
   a. Van Ingen announced a conference opportunity for students to go to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. BIE Grants are available for part of the expenses. See conference information -- http://dwc.hct.ac.ae/insight-dubai/home.html

Next semester meetings: members agreed that the second Wednesday will work. They prefer the History conference room. The next meeting is January 14th at 4pm.