Women’s & Gender Studies Advisory Council (WSAC)

MINUTES for January 13, 2010 (Wednesday)
History Conference Room (Copeland Hall 104) 4-5pm

Present: Julie Campbell, Carrie Kracl, Allison Hedge Coke, Darleen Mitchell, Tami Moore, Jeanne Stolzer, Tone Mendoza, Trish Holen, Demaris Grant, Rebeca Acosta (student rep), Heather Towndrow (student rep), Linda Van Ingen (chair).

Absent: Debra Mowry, Grace Mims, Janice Fronczak, Deb Bridges (ex-officio).

1. New members were introduced: Allison Hedge Coke (FAH), Tone Mendoza (Library), Jeanne Stolzer (B&T), Rebeca Acosta (Student rep).

2. Minutes of November 2009 were approved by email and sent to Faculty Senate on 11-24-09. There was no meeting in December.

3. Curriculum Update:
   - New General Studies Program: WS220 has been approved for Social Science Distribution credit. It also has a new name “Women’s & Gender Studies” instead of “Introduction to Women’s Studies.” WS420 will remain as a requirement for WS minors and will not be a part of the GS Program.
   - Fall and Summer 2010 course schedule/bookmarks: draft was distributed for edits.
   - No on-line summer course was scheduled for WS220.
   - The following courses were approved for WGS elective credit:
     - ENG 490 “Poetry & Prose: From the Page to the Stage” A. Hedge Coke (approved Campbell/Mendoza).
     - HIST 211 (Carol Lilly section only) “Western Civ II” (approved Moore/Stolzer).
     - HIST 484 “US 1898-1941” Van Ingen (approved Mitchell/Mendoza).
     - PSCI 377: “Topics in Political Thought – Feminist Political Thought” Blauwkamp (approved Hedge Coke/Campbell).
     - SOC 380 “Sociology of Sexuality” Wysocki (approved Grant/Krael).
     - HIST 495 “TS: The 1960s” Van Ingen (approved Moore/Hedge Coke).
     - ENG 490 “ST: Graphic Novel” Honeyman (approved Mitchell/Mendoza).
   - Note: SOWK 276 Social Welfare Policies & Services is now SOWK 335 Social Policy & Programs.
   - GS PORTALS: Members discussed whether to adopt these 100-level courses as WGS electives and agreed to revisit the issue at the next meeting. Of concern is the issue of too many lower-division courses in the program. Advantages include the opportunity to recruit students to the minor, and the diversity of courses offered. The program requirements may have to be amended to limit the number of portals (or lower-division courses in general) to 3 or 6 credits.

4. Budget update: Van Ingen noted that some of this year’s budget should be applied to the “No Limits” 2011 conference at UNK with advanced planning. She also said that Diane Wysocki will present her research to WGS students after participating in the SWS (Society of Women’s Sociologists) conference with WGS paying her conference registration.
5. Scholarship subcommittee: Fronczak, Grant, Van Ingen. Hedge Coke was added to this committee and will look into the funds available. The committee will formalize the criteria for awarding the money (about $300) based on GPA and contributions to WGS program through Triota. Van Ingen asked members to think of ways to raise more money for the scholarship.

8. Spring programs:

Story Teller: Beth Horner, “Strong Women: Grand Adventurers & Everyday Heroines” Thursday, January 21 at 11-12:15am in Fine Arts Recital Hall. Sponsored by Kearney Area Storytelling; organized by Julie Agard; co-sponsored by WGS.

“Vagina Monologues” on Feb 18 & 19 (Th & Fri) in Fine Arts Recital Hall at 7:30pm. Grant reported that rehearsals are underway and that publicity will also go through Facebook. Triota will help with ticket sales and publicity including a table in NSU for advance publicity and flyers. Members agreed to donate proceeds to the UNK Women’s Center and the V-Day Spotlight Campaign (approved Campbell/Mitchell).

“No Limits: Global Issues, Local Voices” undergraduate/graduate research at UNL March 5 & 6. Van Ingen urged faculty to mentor students, noting the date to submit abstracts is January 22. Van Ingen will send out the flyer by email so that it can be circulated. WGS will pay for WGS student travel.

World Affairs – March 8-9. Several women speakers and authors will be on the program, including the President of the Writer's Union in Cuba (and former Poet Laureate of Cuba) Nancy Morejon, a Fulbright woman from Oman who works on women’s rights, and a woman journalist who works on Sudan (a keynote speaker). WGS will encourage students to attend.

Panel: “What is Women’s Studies?” Plans were tabled, but early registration starts March 29-Apr 16 so the panel should take place then if we do it.

9. No Limits at UNK 2011 on March 4 & 5 (Fri & Sat) in Ponderosa Rooms

Advanced planning subcommittee: Towndrow, Mitchell, Van Ingen. Members discussed the possible theme “Eco-Feminism and Natural Healing” and will follow-up on many suggestions: sculptor Lynne Hull (Van Ingen); feminist comedian (Towndrow); musician Kay Gardener (Mitchell), eco-feminist scholars (Hedge Coke). The conference can also include a labyrinth walk and sandhill cranes fieldtrip (Hedge Coke). Planning for the conference will be the top agenda item at the February meeting so members should bring information and ideas.

10. Reports:

Women's Center Trish Holen reported on upcoming events, including:

Jan. 27: Movie Night: “He’s Just Not That Into You.”
Feb 5: National Wear Red Day (healthy heart)
Feb 23: Eating Disorder Awareness Month Panel: “Let’s Talk About It” (4-5pm NSU 310)
March 10: Women’s History Month Panel “Writing Women Back Into History” (4-5pm NSU 310)
Triota: Rebeca Acosta reported that the student group is scheduling Rag Discussion Sessions for each month and that they are scheduling a regular weekly or bi-weekly meeting.

QSA (Queer/Straight Alliance): Van Ingen reported that weekly meetings are held Wednesdays at 8pm in Martin Lounge; Feb 2: Pink Triangle Training (2 sessions); April: Day of Silence event is planned.

Gender Equity Committee: Van Ingen told faculty to watch for a short faculty e-survey on issues of promotion to full professor, sponsored by the Gender Equity Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm. (approved Stolzer/Mendoza).

Next meeting is at 4-5pm on Feb 10.