President’s Commission on the Status of University Women

Minutes of Executive Committee

September 28, 2016

Members Present:

Camie Bechtold, Tracy Sterling, Emily Stark sitting in for Jyl Shaffer, Deb Redburn, Becca Belou, Jessi Smith, Celia O’Connor, Hellen Melland (by phone)

Improving Communications

In keeping with our goal of improving communications with other campus groups, PCOSUW’s guest for the month were Garrett Leach and Geneva Zoltek, president and vice-president of ASMSU student government. Camie explained the role and mission of PCOSUW and also mentioned that we support a student award at the Day of Student Recognition every spring. Garrett and Geneva reported on ASMSU’s initiatives for this year:

1. Raise awareness of LGBT community and address equity issues. The Diversity Awareness Office has hired a graduate student, Ryan Erickson, to help with events such as National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11.
2. The *Exponent* student newspaper board has been restructured with more diversity. The goal is to be more energetic and to broaden the diversity of the newspaper.
3. More collaboration with the TRIO program and with Hilleman Scholars
4. ASMSU also runs their own lower cost day care for MSU families
5. Homecoming—trying to structure the board so there is more diversity
6. ASMSU is sponsoring a day long Native American film festival
7. The Senate is made up of 7 females out of a board of 21. Also 1 Native American representative. They are reaching out to student groups to serve on boards and to also run for Senate.

Jessi Smith shared information on ADVANCE TRACS and the family advocate program. She would like to see a student family advocate.

Camie expressed concern about common hour exams and how it affects student-athletes and also students who have issues with day care. They sometimes don’t get accommodations for lack of day care. Discussion continued on the subject and Jessi asked Garret and Geneva to possibly serve on a committee to work out the issue of childcare not being addressed in the 2014 adoption of Common Hour Exams. Camie and Emily volunteered to also serve on the committee.

Becca reminded us of the policy review portal, which needs to have the email updated on the web page. Deb will check to see where the email currently goes and update it.

After Garrett and Geneva left, the business meeting commenced.

The minutes of calendar year 2015-2016 were approved by motion and vote.

Tracy and Camie updated the committee on the full commission meeting on Sept. 29 in the President’s Conference room in Montana Hall. Agenda for the meeting:

* President Cruzado and Rusty Barceló will talk about diversity and how it might intersect with the Commission’s work.
* Ariel Donohue will give an update on diversity inventory
* Jyl Shaffer will give update on Office of Institutional Equity
* Jessi Smith will update ADVANCE progress
* Call for nominations for new subcommittee chairs for Communication and Policy Review
* Announce the January meeting—lunch and outreach event, lecture “Words Matter” presented by College of Business professors
* Approve by-law changes to allow co-chairs for the Commission
* Other campus reports
* Breakout groups for sub-committee goal setting

We discussed other campus groups and individuals that we could invite to the executive meetings—faculty senate, staff senate, ACE conference update from Montana Rep—Nancy Gass from U of M.

Meeting adjourned.