

Faculty Meeting
December 2, 2015
AHC 4-402 MMC and AC1-319, BBC

Minutes

Faculty introductions:

Present at MMC: Judith Bernier (Center for Labor Research and Studies and CWGS), Maya Boutaghou (Modern Languages and CWGS), Vicki Burns (CWGS), Yesim Darici (CWGS and Physics), Asia Eaton (Psychology and CWGS), Ceressa Freeman (invited student), Meg Gardinier (COE Leadership and Professional Studies), Suman Kakar (Criminal Justice), Barbara King (COE Teaching and Learning), Suzanne Koptur (Biology), Shane Landrum (History), Vrushali Patil (CWGS and Global and Sociocultural Studies), Valerie Patterson (Public Administration), Rene Price (Department of Earth and Environment), Nadja Schreiber Compo (Psychology) and Dionne Stephens (Psychology).

Present a BBC: Meri Jane Rochelson (English).

Director's announcements:

Dr. Darici introduced the new administrative assistant, Tamara Gonzalez.

Meeting Minutes

Dr. Darici – Starting today, the meeting minutes will be emailed to all faculty and affiliates in addition to always having them posted on the website.

CWGS Partnerships

Dr. Darici - CWGS will be developing a partnership with the Miami Dade County Community Action and Human Services Department and already have partnerships with the Parks Department. These are good connections with our community.

Networking

Dr. Darici - We successfully established a strong network among FIU faculty to focus on our faculty needs and solutions. Our last networking event was very successful with 50-60 affiliated faculty attending throughout the whole university (from several departments and colleges).

Mentoring

Dr. Darici - Next semester we will start a mentoring program for CWGS students. Dr. Darici will be asking for volunteers from our core and affiliated faculty. This mentoring program would also be supported by the Jewish Museum – Breaking the Glass Ceiling. Dr. Darici asked Dr. Meri Jane Rochelson to say a few words and to give us a small paragraph that we can add on our website.

Dr. Meri Jane Rochelson - This award was established by the Jewish Museum of Florida 20 years ago for Jewish women in Florida who have been pioneers in their fields. More than 80 outstanding winners have been honored with this distinction (<http://imof.fiu.edu/special-events/breaking-the-glass-ceiling/>). Initially, the mentoring should be done for a few CWGS students to be paired up with some of the Glass Ceiling mentors. **Dr. Darici** mentioned that we should start with some hand-picked students instead of an application process.

CWGS Events

Dr. Darici – Fall events were well attended and well received by the FIU Community.

Violence Against Women Initiative wine and cheese event was very well attended and interested parties were introduced.

Dr. Michaela Moura invited the author from one of the books from her WST 3120 Global Women's Writing course, Catherine Sia Figiel. Students enjoyed meeting the author and had great interaction about her book. Great example of inviting some local authors – very inspiring for students. Dr. Darici encouraged the faculty to invite more authors.

Tricked – A documentary film about sex trafficking was well attended by students and community leaders.

Breakfast with Tony Porter. Great talk about “good men”. He was an expensive speaker but Miami-Dade County brought him and we tagged along – thanks to **Dr. Vicki Burns**.

Every year we have the student WSGSA Conference but it is not servicing the goal of recruiting undergraduate students. Dr. Asia Eaton will talk about this event since she is the advisor.

Dr. Asia Eaton – Dr. Eaton is the faculty advisor for this event for the past several years and has been successful with good student participation from many departments and colleges. But she doesn't think it is exceeding in other aims, like getting students enrolled in our programs. It's an incredible amount of work to put this event together. There might be other ways to get that goal without putting on a whole conference. It is serving the students that present great experience at presenting in a research conference, but it is not servicing the Center or the faculty. Instead, for CWGS students to attend other university-wide conferences and for CWGS to have recruitment efforts in those events as well.

Dr. Dionne Stephens said that we need to ask ourselves who these students are and what departments they come from. For example, depending on their field, there's a university-wide undergraduate conference or Psychology has their own conference that we should definitely have a presence in.

Dr. Darici said that we should definitely get to know our students better, where they are located and their interests and find something aimed towards them.

Dr. Maya Boutaghou suggested that perhaps linking the Introduction of Women Studies course or any other course to some type of event. Asia also informed of an FIU Undergraduate Conference on March 4th that CWGS should be a part of.

Dr. Darici liked the idea of having a small event for the Intro to Women Studies course and the students can present their projects and even posters. This is a good starting point.

Dr. Meri Jane Rochelson – in the past, their creative writing students and faculty presented their creative work as an event. You could reach out to the creative writers through her to see if they want to present their work and this would bring in audience that is interested in Women and Gender Studies or creative writing students that would consider Women and Gender Studies and a double major or a certificate.

Dr. Nadja Schreiber Compo believes that there are other ways for our students to get experience presenting their work. For the first time, there is an undergraduate research conference on March 4th – totally interdisciplinary and all students are welcomed to submit their work.

New Office to Advance Women, Equity, and Diversity

Dr. Darici – Provost and the Deans would like to hear our voices and any problems that we have. For example, Dr. Darici has been strongly working on faculty salary differences. She is currently working on one salary issue and the Office to Advance Women, Equity, and Diversity will take the lead on it.

Dr. Nadja Schreiber said that the UFF union hired an external consulting firm to get salary data set but was not categorized by gender. That would be a powerful display of gender disparity if someone can analyze it.

Dr. Dionne Stephens asked that if we can get a hold of this database and sort it out by gender disparities, would Dr. Darici take the lead and send it to the Office to Advance Women, Equity, and Diversity. Dr. Darici said to send it to her and Dr. Suzanna Rose and that she would pressure that office to look at it and to make it a priority.

Dr. Shane Landrum stated that he is a member of UFF Senate and explained that getting the raw salary data from FIU took a long time and there were staffing changes as well.

Dr. Darici formed a “Salary Equity Committee”. Members: Dionne Stephens, Nadja Schreiber Compo, Vrushali Patil, Judith Bernier, Meg Gardinier.

Tenure and promotion booklet

Dr. Darici is updating it.

Travel Funds

Dr. Darici - We have some online funds available but very limited. It would be on a first come first serve basis and will try to help as much as possible.

Donation Opportunity for the Empowerment of Women by a Saudi Prince

Dr. Darici is looking into it with Dean Mike Heithaus and other connections. There were questions and concerns but Dr. Darici explained that these are the first steps and will have more details later as she moves forward.

Women in Islam

Dr. Darici – Dr. Maya Boutaghou would like CWGS to take a lead at FIU on “Women in Islam”.

Dr. Maya Boutaghou - One idea might be to organize a panel of experts for a student event.

International Women’s Summit Congress in Turkey – May 16-18, 2016

Dr. Darici – is the organizer of the conference and will be emailing more information regarding the themes of the conference. She asked for everyone to please read the information/webpage and give your input.

POISE (FIU organization)

Ceressa Freeman, representative from POISE - did a brief presentation about a women’s organization called Promotional Intellectual Social Enrichment (POISE) and is recruiting for a faculty advisor.

Dr. Darici thanked Ceressa for her brief presentation and advised her to send an email to Tamara Gonzalez with more details, and Dr. Darici can forward it to all core and affiliated faculty.

Establish an Advisory Board/ Board of Directors for the Conflict, Violence and Gender Initiative

Dr. Darici – to establish an advisory board/board of directors that can take the lead and advise on whatever is planned and give some direction. Dr. Vrushali Patil will send an email to all core and affiliated faculty asking if they are interested. So far the faculty that are interested are: Dr. Vrushali Patil, Dr. Suman Kakar, Dr. Dionne Stephens, Dr. Vicki Burns and Dr. Nadja Schreiber Compo.

Dr. Darici thanked everyone for their support, participation and for coming to the meeting.

Meeting adjourned 1:05pm.