General Commission Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2012
12:00-1:00
1339 FAB

Members Present: 23, excused 5; absent 6
I. Call to Order
   a. Eldonna May, Chair, called meeting to order

II. Review of the minutes
   a. A motion passed to approve the August 2012 meeting minutes

III. Chair’s Report
   a. Budget Allocation: $9800 for 2012-2013, now administered by the president’s office. Committee allocations: $900 each for G& E, CDC, Outreach, Health Sciences; $250 each for Research and membership; $200 for PR/Communications; $2400 for scholarships (Sophia suggested that scholarships be in equal amounts going forward), $400 for office supplies and $700 for trinkets/giveaways; $900 for food and beverage for new members’ luncheon; $100 miscellaneous; $1000 set aside for special projects.
   b. Women’s Studies- new name/new student organization. Organization is called Gender, Sexuality & Women’s Studies (Anne Dugan, contact). Consider collaborating with them. Another organization of interest is the Feminists Collective Organization of Detroit. Discussed whether we should set up reciprocal links on our website. PR & Marketing will manage these requests. G&E committee (Darryl and Simone) can reach out- Darryl has already had some conversations with them and Eldonna reached out to Anne Dugan.

IV. Vice Chair’s Report
   a. Discussed rough draft of a plan to collect research for the purpose of identifying priorities for women on campus and in the surrounding community. This information could help in identifying key topic areas on which COSW could focus in the future.
V. Treasurer’s Report
   a. All funds from FY2011-2012 have been spent; scholarships were disbursed.

VI. Scholarship Recipients
   a. Met recipients Wei Zhang and Alexandra Padilla. Each briefly talked about her academic goals.

VII. Committee Reports
   a. Membership- No updates

   b. Outreach- Clothesline Project next Wednesday (September 26th) from 11-2 in Student Center Hilberry C. Attendees from YWCA Interim House and others identified through Wayne County Safe will be attending. Women’s volleyball team and La Vida are attending. Added another event- Wednesday, October 3rd from 11-2 on Gullen Mall outside of the UGL, for Domestic Violence Awareness Month- “I will not raise my hand in violence”. Making hands display. Will contact Student Center about displaying it. Robin Shellnut talked about her new student organization which brings awareness about human trafficking- “Not for Sale.” First event is a walk on Belle Isle on 10/20/12. Troy Eller mentioned that she has been managing announcements through the COSW listserv- these will be passed on to the PR & Marketing committee. Outreach also asked PR & Marketing for help developing a banner.

   c. Career Development: Diane Fears announced that on Tuesday, November 13th, they will host an Entrepreneurship Panel. When women embrace entrepreneurship, it has a positive impact on the economy. Also, CDC is working with other groups to develop a mentoring program- will work with G&E committee on this as well as other campus partners.

   d. Health Sciences: The committee met and made plans for the year. Last yoga session is on 9/21/12 @ 3:00 PM. Dr. Judy, who conducted first session will return on 10/31 @ 3:00 at UGL. Troy Eller has agreed to serve as co-chair of Health Sciences. Sophia will be out on maternity leave from 11/12-1/13. Health Sciences is also working on the stairwell project (signage to promote taking the stairs for health benefit). Want to put up signs but also want to do research to see if it is making a difference. Simone Brennan knows someone with expertise in developing public health campaigns. Health Sciences is also considering a program, held in conjunction with CAPS, on body image and a heart health program in February.

   e. Gender & Equity: Developing a 3-stage mentoring program: 1) What is mentoring, 2) guided session on mentoring, & 3) full-fledged networking session. Want to start with needs assessment and give participants something tangible. Would like to build network of women. Will work with Diane Fears and CDC. Gender & Equity would like to do survey to assess needs of community with regard to gender and equity issues. Could do this in partnership with other committees, like research. Also, the committee is discussing whether there is some sort of education or forum they can
provide that builds on the University-mandated sexual harassment training, perhaps related to educating about what is acceptable and not acceptable or to provide resources.

f. Research (see Vice President’s report)

VIII. Old Business
   a. Still need to work on updating COSW guidelines. However, need to do research first to help determine what role COSW should have on campus and in the community.

IX. New Business
   a. The Greater Detroit Association of Black Social Workers is holding an event at Alumni House on 10/1/12 at 6:30 PM. They invited COSW to have a table at the event. Troy is willing to attend but needs an assistant at resource table. Robin Collins indicated that she would attend.

X. Adjournment
   a. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM.