

Meeting of the New Jersey Consortium of Women and Gender Studies (NJWGWS)

Bergen Community College

October 17, 2008

Present: Fawzia Afal-Khau (Montclair State University), Mimi Dumville (Raritan Valley Community College), Ellen Friedman (The College of New Jersey), Emily Filardo (Kean University), Alicia Groatman (Rowan University), Mary Hawkesworth (Rutgers University), Jyl Josephson (Rutgers – Newark), Sreevidya Kalaramadam (William Paterson University), Elaine Klett (Brookdale Community College), Maria Makowiecka (Bergen Community College), Lisa Mastrangelo (College of St. Elizabeth), Sally McWilliams (Montclair State university), Catherine Raissiguier ( New Jersey City University), Maria Roumiantseva (Montclair State University), Arlene Holpp Scala (William Paterson University), Janice Stapley (Monmouth University)

I. Greeting and introductions

II. Budget report : Sally McWilliams

Sally discussed the overall good health of the budget. In September of 2007, the Consortium had \$15, 567.26. The Consortium had a balance of \$25,994.26 as of October 15, 2008. (See budget attachment.)

Janice Stapely suggested that since the budget is healthy and the economy is causing stress in students' lives that the Consortium pay the travel expenses for students presenting papers at the April 2009 conference.

III. Fundraising letters: Lisa Mastrangelo

Lisa reported that the fundraising letters would go out in about two weeks. Universities and colleges contribute \$500.00 or \$1,000.00 to the Consortium.

IV. Report on April 3 Conference at Raritan Valley Community College: Mimi Dumville

Mimi passed around information about Dr. Melissa Harris-Lacewell, the speaker recommended for the conference. She is Associate Professor of Politics and African American Studies at Princeton University and the author of *Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought*. A discussion followed most members supported this selection. Members were offered the opportunity to send further comments to Arlene and Lisa before a decision would be finalized.

V. Webpage update: Sally

Sally will give Tag Online the okay to move forward with developing the web page. Maria, Lisa, and Arlene have been giving her feedback on the page design.

- VI. MAWSA Conference (Rutgers, New Brunswick, March 26-28, 2009) Update: Mary Hawkesworth  
There was an excellent response to the call for papers from people across the country as well as from countries outside the U.S. Rooms will be available for \$89.00 per night with occupancy for four. There will be entertainment the night before the conference. Tickets for the entertainment will be offered to the universities and colleges contributing in response to the fundraising letters.
- VII. Finalized criteria for judging papers at the annual conference: Lisa and Arlene (See attachment)
- VIII. Speakers Bureau Update: Arlene  
A few people have responded to the call for speakers. Arlene will send out another call.
- IX. New Business
1. Election of Treasurer: There was a nomination from the floor for Sally McWilliams who had been serving as interim treasurer. Sally was unanimously elected. Members decided that the treasurer should serve for two years with the possibility of serving additional terms. Sally said that the Consortium by-laws would have to be changed to include the office of the treasurer and the term stipulations.
  2. Women and Gender Studies major: Ellen Friedman shared information about a program that has been developed at TCNJ for K-8 teaching certification for Women's Studies majors. Information is available on the TCNJ website and an article written by Ellen is in the current issue of *Ms. Magazine*.

Meeting was adjourned and 12:30Pm and was followed by lunch provided by BCC. The Mini Conference immediately followed.

### **Mini-Conference**

**1:30-3:30 PM**

#### ***Workshop I: Women' Studies Students***

Student attendees: **Bergen Community College:** Justyna Broda, Akunna Ihemaguba, Lee Ifhar, Nina Jewell, Kira Kranich, Jenna Medans, Tamika Pascal; **Kean University:** Marla

Shachtman ; **Montclair State University:** Viviana Bernal,; **New Jersey City University:** Jaclyn Foglio, Nicole Leibowitz ; **William Paterson University:** Samantha Neil, Abby Tencza.

Students discussed several topics:

- Feminism
- Issue about Science majors not being able to minor in Women's Studies at one institution
- Transfer agreements between community colleges and four-year institutions
- The possibility of linking Women's Studies programs from Consortium institutions
- Developing a Consortium Face Book page
- Stigmas associated with majoring in Women's Studies and taking Women Studies courses.
- Changing the name of programs to Women and Gender Studies
- Problems with "Men and Masculinity," a course offered at one of the institutions
- Students suggestions about what Women's Studies programs can do for them
  1. Develop a course about feminist activism.
  2. Develop a women's rights pamphlet.
  3. Prepare orientation packets that include information about rape awareness.
  4. Give WS students more opportunities to meet other WS students from sister schools.
  5. Give WS students more opportunities to talk with professors from Consortium institutions.
- Suggestions for ways that Women's Studies students can encourage students to major or minor in Women's Studies
  1. Speak about Women's Studies at orientations for new students.
  2. Introduce WS to high school students; talk at high schools about WS.
  3. WS students can about WS with other students.
  4. Write letters t school newspapers about WS.
  5. Develop a WS newsletter at colleges.
  6. Use skits to recruit students.

### ***Workshop II: Teaching On-Line Courses***

- ***Lisa Mastrangelo talked about her 12 years experience teaching on-line courses.***
- ***Maria Makiewicz talked about teaching on-line as a sound pedagogical practice.***
- ***Catherine discussed the need to be "super organized" when teaching on-line and about the problem of student failure.***

***Respectfully submitted by Lisa Mastrangelo and Arlene Holpp Scala November 12, 2008***