

NJWGSC, Business Meeting and Invited Guest (Allison Kimmich)
February 29, 2008
Minutes

Attending: Sally McWilliams (co-chair; MSU), Arlene Holpp Scala (co-chair; WPU), Roseanne Alvarez (Brookdale CC), Alicia Groatman (Rowan), Debra Liebowitz (Drew), Lisa Mastrangelo (C of St. Elizabeth), Marie Mele (Monmouth), Irma Lister (Brookdale), Elaine Klett (Brookdale), Maria Makowiecka (Bergen CC), Emily Filardo (Kean), Deb Compte (TCNJ), Allison Kimmich (NWSA)

I. Greetings

Thanks to Lisa Mastrangelo and the College of St. Elizabeth for hosting this meeting. Sally passed out handouts of the assessment rubric used by the WGS program at Drew U; she apologized for the lateness of this handout—it was provided by Wendy Kolmar for distribution at our October meeting. A call for submissions to *Transformations* was passed around,

II. Conference Update

Deb Liebowitz brought us up to date on the planning for the April 4th conference: 31 papers submitted from 12 schools. Please send in your registration forms (for student presenters plus faculty and students who will be attending)—Deb sent out the reg form via the NJWGSC listserve. The judges were convening after today's meeting to determine the winners; they are also working on the order of presentations for the 4th. The conference will showcase both scholarship and promise. For next year, we need to doublecheck possible conflicts with the selected date (e.g., it turns out the National Honor Society is meeting in Morristown on 4/4/08 this year). We need to develop and distribute some evaluative criteria that can be used at the campus level for screening submissions. Also Deb suggested we think more carefully about whether or not we want to distinguish scholarship on women vs. feminist analysis. A suggestion was made that student presenters also have an opportunity to present their work at their home colleges or universities.

III. Budget Update

As of 2/29/08 we have \$28,567 in our bank account. Which means after the conference expenses and holding back the remaining funds from the NJP, we'll still have over \$20,000 in the coffers. Twenty schools are now members of the Consortium.

IV. Webpage Update

Bergen Community College has hosted the webpage for two years. Maria Makowiecka explained that we need to make substantial improvements to give our webpage a more professional look and to consider hosting it on our own domain. She researched and found out that we could have our own domain for as little as \$5 per month. Sally explained that MSU Women's Studies had a woman-owned business design its webpage. Maria will estimate the full cost of the domain while Sally will get an estimate from TagOnline for creating a NJWGSC identity online.

V. Speakers Bureau

Maria suggested that we think more carefully about if we want to continue with this project as the listing we inherited from the NJP is woefully out of date. It would need an extensive update which will be rather labor intensive to carry off. A subcommittee formed to investigate the pros/cons of our continuing with this project: Emily (Kean), Maira (Bergen), and Arlene (WPU).

VI. Travel Funding Policy

We agreed on the following policy to go into effect immediately:

The NJWGSC will offer a maximum of **four (4) \$500** travel grants per year to individuals who are either presenting at the NWSA annual conference or are attending the PAD pre-conference. *One submission per NJWGSC affiliated program will be reviewed.* Selection will be based on demonstrated need. Programs that receive money for 2008 will become eligible to apply again in three years.

If you're going to NWSA as a presenter, please submit

- an abstract of the accepted paper
- a statement indicating how and to whom you've requested funding
- a signed letter from your chair/dean indicating there are limited or no funds available to you for this conference
- and a statement of your relationship to NJWGSC

If you're attending the PAD pre-conference, please submit

- a statement of your goals in attending this PAD pre-conference
- a statement indicating how and to whom you've requested funding
- a signed letter from your chair/dean indicating there are limited or no funds available to you for this conference
- and a statement of your relationship to NJWGSC

Please submit these documents by March 24, 2008 to Sally McWilliams, email address: mcwilliamss@mail.montclair.edu; or fax 973-655-6802. She will distribute the materials to the subcommittee. Applicants will be notified of the subcommittee's decision no later than April 15, 2008.

The subcommittee for this year's round of submissions is Elaine (Brookdale), Marie (Monmouth), and Deb (TCNJ).

- VII. New Business: These items will be part of our summer retreat scheduled for June 26th.
Student organizations and NJWGSC—networking opportunities?
Putting our budget to work—scholarships? Not for profit organizations?

Announcements:

Bergen CC is looking for panel facilitators for the upcoming Beacon 2008 conference. If you are a faculty member from a 4-year institution and interested in participating, please contact Maria at mmakowiecka@bergen.edu. They really could benefit from your expertise and energy.

VIII. Invited Guest: Allison Kimmich, Executive Director of NWSA

Allison provided us with an overview of the organization stressing the four aspects of its mission: raise scholarly profile of WGS; position itself as field expert; advance anti-discrimination work; and provide services to the membership of NWSA. The NWSA website has been updated with information on a new faculty book award (with a May 1 deadline), Women of Color Leadership project news, the data collection project results, and ,in development, is a searchable database for developing student mentoring. Allison, reporting on a recent NWSA survey, said that there are 652 Women's Studies Programs and 89,000 Women's Studies students. She said that 85% of Women's

Studies courses fill GE requirements, 30.4 % of Women's Studies students are students of color, 19% of Women's Studies faculty are of color, and there are 12 WGS doctoral programs. Allison is going to provide NJWGSC with a flier about NWSA services which we can then share with our respective faculty and students. [Please see attachment] There was also a discussion about connecting with grants/foundations officers at their annual meetings.

Speaking about regional support, Allison said that NWSA was started by regional organizations. She asked how NWSA can help NJWGSC. Allison and the membership offered the following suggestions:

1. NJWGSC can include a link to the NWSA webpage.
2. NJWGSC can provide links to international organizations. (NWSA is a NGO member.)
3. Information about learning communities and capstone courses can be provided on the NJWGSC webpage.
4. A grants officer can be invited to a NJWGSC meeting.

Submitted 3/25/08