

President's Advisory Committee on the Role & Status of Women

Report to the President Academic Year 2002 – 2003 Committee Activities

The year 2002-2003 was a year of restructuring for the committee. Activities were limited to rebuilding membership, rewriting the committee's bylaws, reconstructing a membership list to include all members (past and present) and re-developing the Staff Appreciation Luncheon to make it more responsive. A recurrent theme in the year was reaching out to other campus entities to partner with them on projects of interest to the partner and the committee. Because the committee has made a decision to become more visible on campus and to take a more active lead in partnering with other campus organizations, event partnerships are critical.

The membership believes that the committee should be at the forefront of issues affecting women, and also be perceived as a leading activist organization at the university. To that end, the committee has formed partnerships with Cultural Crossings, Health and Wellness Center - RSW continues to work with Health and Wellness Center on issues on campus that affect the health of women at CSU – the personal hygiene project is an example of this partnership; Women's Studies Faculty: RSW continues to offer connections to this faculty which may result in increased participation in Women's Studies courses and programs; Career Services: The Daycare project continues as a joint effort of this partnership and it is hoped that a day care center will soon be in place at the university; Affirmative Action - the Sexual Harassment workshops are an example of this partnership.

RSW worked with Affirmative Action and specifically Maria Codinach to present workshops and distribute the AA brochure on sexual harassment as well as pertinent CSU policies. (The President interrupted the report to inform the committee that the new AAUP contract, for the first time, includes a provision to deal with relationships between faculty and students, specifically sexual and social relationships.

Personal Hygiene Problems for women - the committee sent a memo forward to the president seeking his support to remedy a serious health problem on campus. The memo was sent out by a library staff and detailed the problems with supplying feminine hygiene products to women on campus. To wit: Physical Plant refuses to stock the machines in the women's restrooms, no store on campus carries supplies, the library has been forced to put tampon packets in their library supply vending machines. RSW and

Health and Wellness Center have working to resolve the problem. The committee informed the President that this partnership exists because Physical Plant, which currently handles the supply of machines and the placement of machines, does not want to continue to supply either, due to alleged vandalism of the machines. (The President interrupted the report to instruct the committee to resolve the issue with Physical Plant and not the Wellness Center as it is a function of the Physical Plant responsibilities and not a task assigned to Health and Wellness.)

Staff Appreciation Luncheon: The past year, the buffet, rather than formal luncheon was a great success and the committee has decided to make this the format for this annual event. Staff reported back to the committee that the extended hours of the luncheon (11:30AM – 2:30PM) allows for members of a same office to cover for each other so that all invited staff members can attend. The relaxed atmosphere also allows staff to move around and meet with friends and other staff members they do not meet very often – this is the only event on campus where staff is invited to be together and to intermingle with each other.