

## **Report to the President AY 2007-2008**

The President's Advisory Committee on the Role and Status of Women spent the year restructuring and adjusting to lowered resources and assistance. Having completed and adopted the revised Rules of Governance in AY 2006-2007, the committee implemented them with the start of the AY07-08 year. The first adjustment was the increase in membership. The committee added two new faculty members (Patricia Stoddard-Dare of Social Work and Elice Rogers of COEHS/CASAL) and two new staff members (Keisha Gunn, Classified and Darlene Hill, Professional Staff).

With increased membership the committee was able to disperse duties in a more equitable fashion. Keisha Gunn took over organization of the Staff Appreciation Luncheon with assistance from Darlene, Christine Sell and all committee members. Connie Hollinger retained responsibility for the yearly Role and Status of Women report. Marge Payerle and Patricia Stoddard-Dare formed a new sub-committee to examine and report on CSU's FMLS policies and their affects on women faculty and staff, related to pregnancy leave and family care issues.

All traditional activities were carried out as usual. The committee lent monetary and other support to the WCP Reception for New Women Faculty, and other events offered by Women's Comprehensive Center (WCP).

This year the committee was not able to host women speakers or even a small conference due to time and budget constraints. It is hoped that the committee will be able to participated in and perhaps co-sponsored an ever at a CSU Women 's Conference during Women's History Month in AY2008-2009.

### **No Graduate Student**

The committee's application for a graduate assistant was denied and the committee was forced to go without student assistance this year. Late in the year Dr. Leo Jeffres offered to fund a part-time position for the committee, to be matched by funds from CLASS in order to hire a GA for the Women's Comprehensive Center. However, unexpected complication prevented this from happening, so the committee was not able to offer a grad student, interested in Women's Studies and/or women's issues the opportunity to work on a committee that deals with those very topics. (AY08-09 request was turned down in our initial inquiries, so no application was submitted).

### **FMLA Policy Committee**

The committee has completed its initial examination of CSU policies related to Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and will provide the full committee with an interim report this year. It is hoped that the committee can continue its work in conjunction with a committee formed by Women's Studies faculty to examine the same issues. It is anticipated that the committee will complete its work this year and submit a final report with recommendations to the committee late in this academic year.

### **2007-08 Staff Appreciation Luncheon**

The luncheon this year was a great success. Each year over the past five years, we have been able to increase participation in this event, even though the committee cannot afford to offer it to all professional and classified staff due to budget constraints. However, staff up to the equivalent of Grade 5 are invited to attend the open event which starts at noon and continues to 2:00PM. For the past two years, we have presented it in Panel Hall, third floor

of Fenn Tower. This room is spacious and seems to offer easy access and comfortable accommodation. Our staff is able to sit and talk to each other and share information with each other. This is the only event offered in the year that allows our staff to come together in a common and supportive event sponsored for their benefit and appreciation.

As always, the committee offers luncheon and a token gift – both paid for from our budget. Donated items are dispersed to the staff via raffles that happen periodically during the two hours of the event.

This year we presented the Role and Status of Women at the luncheon. Dr. Hollinger read the highlights of the report to the attendees at two different times during the event ensuring that the maximum number of staff were able to hear it.

### **Expenditures**

The Staff luncheon costs have risen steadily in the past five years and now runs about \$3500 for the complete event. The luncheon for 280 staff attendees cost \$3001.92. The drawstring backpack (sample attached) cost \$582.60 for 320 and extras are used at other events. It is the largest expenditure each year by the committee.

This year IS&T announced that the Gateway contract was no longer in effect and all units would need to purchase a new Hewlett Packard computer to be in compliance with university computing standards. The committee has purchased a laptop that serves the committee needs and also can be borrowed by WCP and Women's Studies faculty for use at conferences etc. The cost of the computer included a backpack carrier. The total cost was \$1254.80 because we upgraded our laptop model to include Blue Tooth and a docking station. (Standard Laptop/ CSU Price \$1137.80 plus Blue Tooth Module \$15 and Docking Station \$102.)

### **Women's Comprehensive Center**

Despite numerous reports and evaluations and requests for meetings with the Architect's office to discuss the assigned new space, the committee and WCP were unsuccessful in their joint attempts to re-configure the space and to provide private room for counseling, breast-feeding, and other activities at the center that mandate privacy. Architect's Office was not concerned with issue raised by the WCP and the committee and so the space allocation, which is barely adequate and the space's configuration do not match the needs of the center or the students of the university. It had been hoped that some consideration would be given to the concerns expressed because women are vital to CSU. Since our institutional statistics show that women enroll at CSU and graduate at higher rates than men, and that women have gone on to graduate programs at CSU at higher rates than men it seemed to the center staff and to the committee members that a voice might be had. We found ourselves mistaken in that notion.