

## Minutes - Commission on the Status of Women: November 9, 2021

### Members Present

Stephanie Adams  
Megan Atkinson  
Erica Bower  
Michelle Estes  
Amy Foster  
Cindy Gates  
Cassandra Gronendyke  
Paula Hinton  
Savannah Hunter  
Amber Lovell  
Ramona Mayfield  
Lauren Neal  
Julie Stepp  
Niya Sparks  
Ashley Wright

### Non-Members Present

Diana Lalani  
Robert Owens

### Notified of Absence

Allen Driggers  
Nicole Cook  
Lelia Gibson  
Helen Hunt  
Mari Ramler

### Members Absent

Halle Ford

**Agenda:** Julie moved approval of the agenda, Paula seconded, and the motion was approved.

**Minutes:** Cassandra moved approval of the October minutes, Megan seconded, and the motion passed.

**Women's Center Report:** Diana updated members on activities and upcoming events, including the Period Poverty Donation Drive. Written information about the drive is attached.

**Treasurer's Report:** Stephanie reported on the current account balance, which is \$1,500.00.

**University Policy Report:** Cassandra and Erica reported that the subcommittee has not met since the last meeting. They do have a Team space for information sharing. Lauren noted that she has been working with the Registrar on preferred name options.

**Safety Report:** Megan reported that Ann Hellman sent a summary of the Project Awaken Campus Climate Survey, noting that there seemed to be no granular information or data.

**Programming & Publicity Report:** Stephanie informed members of the subcommittee choices for Center Stage proposals and reminded members that 2022 Award nominations are open until 11/22. A written report is attached.

**Virtual Awards Ceremony:** After being honored at the 10/21 Faculty Awards Reception, last year's CSW award winners prefer to be officially awarded in the spring term.

**2022 - 2023 Center Stage Proposals:** One of the original subcommittee recommendations, Sara Lowery, has already been here, so the committee recommends either Ebone Bell or Victoria Alexander. After discussion, Julie moved approval of Ebone Bell as the 2022-2023 proposed speaker with Victoria Alexander as a backup. Megan seconded and the motion was approved.

**Adjournment** was agreed to at about 3:35.

## **November 2021 Program and Publicity Report**

The subcommittee met to discuss CenterStage speakers. Our recommendations are Sara Lowery (Shining a LIGHT on Mental Darkness) for Fall 2022; and Ebone Bell (Social Justice: How to be a Good Ally) for Spring 2023. Speaker bios available at <https://campuspeak.com/our-speakers/>

The subcommittee is working on a date for the 2020-2021 Virtual Awards Ceremony. Call for Nominations for the 2021-2022 Awards have been placed in Tech Times and on the social media of the Women's Center.

## **November 2021 Safety Subcommittee Report**

Discussion Items for Future Action:

1. What is the nature of the public safety walk: should we meet at a given time or do it on our own time and communicate individual findings to the committee?
2. Should we have a speaker or a panel that discusses safety on campus?
3. What is the nature of the public safety report.

**Note: Women's Center News on page 3**

# END PERIOD POVERTY



Tennessee Tech Women's Center  
[www.tntech.edu/women](http://www.tntech.edu/women)



1 IN 5 US COLLEGE WOMEN



*Couldn't afford menstruation products at least once in the last year.*

2 OF 3 LOW-INCOME US WOMEN

*Regularly struggle to buy period products.*



PERIOD PRODUCTS ARE TAXED IN TN AS LUXURY GOODS

*Tennessee and 29 other states still tax period products as luxury goods, despite efforts to end taxation.*



SNAP AND WIC BENEFITS CAN'T BE USED FOR PERIOD PRODUCTS

*Period products are classed as "luxury goods" like alcohol, despite the fact that the FDA considers them medical devices.*



A note on language: People of all genders menstruate. We're using "women" on this page because the studies referenced only used people assigned female at birth as their subjects.

November 2021 Campaign

## HOW TO HELP

SERVICE  
drive!



### GIVE

- Donate period products to the Women's Center or the Service Learning Center during November.
- Contribute cash to the period poverty fund through Tech's food pantry at the QR code. (<https://www.tntech.edu/volunteer/outreach.php>)



### WORK: 12/2

Help us assemble all the donations we collect into kits for distribution at our holiday social!

- December 2nd from 11-1
- Tech Pride Room
- Light refreshments will be provided
- Ugly sweaters encouraged

Questions? Comments?

Call the Women's Center at (931) 372-3850 or email Helen Hunt at [hhunt@tntech.edu](mailto:hhunt@tntech.edu)