

Minutes - Commission on the Status of Women: September 14, 2021

Members Present

Stephanie Adams
Megan Atkinson
Nicole Cook
Allen Driggers
Amy Foster
Cassandra Gronendyke
Helen Hunt
Savannah Hunter
Amber Lovell
Lauren Neal
Mari Ramler
Julie Stepp
Niya Sparks
Ashley Wright

Non-Members Present

Diana Lalani
Robert Owens

Notified of Absence

Lelia Gibson
Sharon Henry
Mary Kidd

Members Absent

Halle Ford
Cindy Gates
Paula Hinton
Amy McCoy

Agenda: Megan moved approval of the agenda, Ashley seconded, and the motion was approved.

Minutes: Julie moved approval of the March minutes, Nicole seconded, and the motion was approved. Julie moved approval of the April minutes, Nicole seconded, and the motion was approved.

Women's Center Report: Helen updated members on activities and upcoming events. A written news report is attached.

Treasurer's Report: Stephanie reported on Fiscal Year End 2021 spending and on the current account balance. Julie moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Allen seconded, and the motion was approved.

Meeting locations this year: Stephanie determined that meetings will be via Zoom for the first half of the year. Will reassess for second half.

2021 and 2022 Award presentations and luncheons: Due to COVID, Stephanie suggested that the 2021 Awards presentation, which had been delayed until this semester, be postponed and combined with the Spring 2022 Award presentations. Helen suggested that, should the Awards lunch be combined, the 2021 Awards be presented in a non-meal virtual or outside celebration in early November. Ashley moved that the Awards luncheon be combined but that the 2021 Awards be presented in early November as suggested by Helen. Julie seconded and the motion carried.

Selection of 2023 Chair-elect: Helen nominated Nicole as 2022-2023 Chair-elect. Julie officially nominated Nicole, Ashley seconded and the motion passed.

Membership and Meeting times: Because several members cannot attend during the regular meeting time, quorum issues and solutions were discussed. Stephanie will seek replacements for members who cannot attend meetings regularly. Nicole provided several suggestions of faculty members in her department.

Funding half of *Attune* publication costs: The CSW agreed to provide up to \$250 a term or \$500 total towards the printing cost of *Attune*. Julie made the motion, Nicole seconded, and the motion passed.

Goals for 2021-2022: Members discussed adding the possible goals of alternative work arrangement policies (Policy No. 626) and adding background checks on current employees (Policy No.602). They plan to follow-up on last year's work with the Chosen Name and Amnesty policies. Suggestions were also made to add an accessibility component to the Safety Walk, to request access to the last campus climate survey, and possibly expand the purview of the Safety Walk.

Subcommittee selection: Each subcommittee's purpose and past work were described. Chairs were reminded that a brief written report should be sent each month to Diana. Members signed up for their preferred subcommittee via chat. Stephanie will send the list out so that subcommittees may convene.

Adjournment was agreed to at about 4:26.

Note: Women's Center News on page 3

SEPTEMBER 2021

CSW NEWS

Updates from the Women's Center



*Events that have
already happened!*

MONDAY SOCIAL -
AUG 23

WOMEN'S EQUALITY
DAY - AUG 26

BOOK CLUB - SEPT 7

WOMEN AND GENDER
STUDIES WELCOME
SOCIAL - SEPT 9

Summer Updates

OFFICE UPDATES + WEBSITE ADDITIONS

This summer we worked on cleaning out, rearranging, and upgrading the amenities of the Women's Center. If you haven't come by to see the space now, come see us!

We also revamped our book collection! We re-cataloged everything to integrate with the Volpe's system and we've started using their circulation platform, so you can actually electronically check out books now.

We've added a page to our website all about our collection (tntech.edu/women/books) where you can browse the complete collection, read about featured collections, and make a purchase request.

Coming Up/How to Participate

CONTRIBUTE TO THE WMC

Write for Attune! We want to add a guest editor column from the CSW since, after all, the CSW helps pay for and produce this newsletter. Who wants to volunteer to write a short article that relates in some way to women and/or gender on campus?

In November: We'll be working on a donation drive to end period poverty (ok well maybe not end, but to help alleviate period poverty in our area. You can:

- Contribute period products (drop off in the WMC)
- Help us assemble the period kits (December 2nd, 11-1)
- Contribute financially to the period poverty campaign through Tech's Food Pantry
- Recruit other donors by sharing the drive within your networks

Participate in the Family-Friendly Campus project that the Women's Center is working on with Faculty Senate and the Office of Research. Talk to Dr. Hunt for more info.

EVENTS!

See the complete list on our website, but here's what's happening in the next month:

Monday Social: 9/20 at 3pm in the WMC

Come snack on coffee and donuts and hang out with our featured guests, the Lambda Gay-Straight Alliance

Tamara Winfrey-Harris: 9/27 7 pm Derryberry Auditorium
Presented by Center Stage, come hear Winfrey-Harris talk about representations of black women in popular media and how to fight common stereotypes.

Holding Space for Self with Cheya Thousand: 10/5 11 am
Derryberry Auditorium

Come learn strategies to prioritize self-care and create a personal wellness plan to ease stress and combat burnout.



*"I want to tell the stories
of Black women and girls, and
deliver the truth to all those folks
who got us twisted—tangled up in
racist and sexist lies. I want my
writing to advocate for my sisters.
We are better than alright.
We are amazing"*

Tamara Winfrey-Harris

