

**Madison Caucus for Gender Equality  
Business Meeting  
December 6, 2013  
Taylor Hall, Room 306**

**Initiation of Subcommittees**

- Shari Scofield will chair the Networking Committee, which is responsible for planning events that will bring Caucus members together.
- Kathy Ott Walter will chair the Dominion Lecture Committee, which is responsible for selecting the 2014 Dominion Lecturer. Feel free to contact Kathy at [ottwalmk@jmu.edu](mailto:ottwalmk@jmu.edu) with suggestions. A couple of suggestions given at the meeting were Valerie Mosely and Sue Rankin.
- Kathie Clarke will chair the Advocacy Committee, which is responsible for advertising the professional development awards and selecting recipients.
- If you indicated interest in a committee on your membership form, you may be asked to join one of the committees above.
- Kristi McDonnell can assist committee chairs in scheduling meetings, etc.

**Discuss Support Training for Interested Members**

Individuals who have experienced sexual harassment on campus and are looking for resources and support have contacted caucus leaders for help. AJ and Meg thought it might be a great idea to offer training to interested Caucus members so that they can provide support for victims. This would possibly include attending Title IX training; learning more about confidentiality, reporting, legal/civil processes, and resources on campus. Interested members may also be asked to provide collegial support at judicial hearings, etc. This may be added to the duties of the Advocacy Committee or possibly become its own separate committee.

**Leadership Transitions**

Elections will take place in the spring. Be thinking about new leadership as AJ and Meg plan to step down as co-chairs. Are you interested in serving on the steering committee or being the chair/co-chair? Now is an important time for the organization to grow. The Caucus will send out an email about this when the time comes.

**Social Media Campaign**

As a follow-up to concerns raised about JMU makeouts, Liz Howley asked if any faculty members would be interested in overseeing a student project to create a campaign to spread awareness of the digital footprint. She has been told by upper administration that students should take the lead on this issue. Caucus members suggested creating flashpoints from CIT, contacting SMAD (Isaac Woo), SCOM (Laurie Britt) and marketing for assistance. Meg reminded members that the behavior seen on these social media sites is very much an act of bullying and violent, misogynistic behavior. It is important that students working on the project are paired with someone that can help them understand the

importance of the content. Please contact Liz at [howleyeg@jmu.edu](mailto:howleyeg@jmu.edu) if you are a faculty member interested in participating in this project.

### **LGBT Faculty/Staff Group**

Caucus members Rob Alexander and JoAnn Benjamin are very active in the LGBT faculty/staff group on campus. They have recently been added to the Caucus as ad-hoc steering committee members since much of their organization's interests overlap with the Caucus.

### **Daycare Center Progress/Family Leave**

Diane Yerian, Director of Human Resources, asked AJ to report on the progress of an on-campus childcare center and family leave. Proposals for a childcare center and family leave have been submitted to the Senior Leadership Team for consideration. Financial models are still being constructed. Diane will keep us informed.

AJ also submitted the on-campus daycare center as part of the Big Idea campaign as did at least one other group. If selected it will go on to a consulting group for consideration and then be presented to major donors.

### **Other Business**

AJ asked if everyone thought the membership dues were reasonable. Everyone agreed that the current amounts are just right. A few members mentioned that they'd like the option to join/renew online with a debit/credit card rather than paying with a check. AJ and Kristi will look into this.

Caucus members also considered the possible benefit of becoming an official JMU organization.

One member suggested that new members receive a welcome letter with upcoming events when they join. She also suggested collecting more information on members such as a photograph and their department to give members an opportunity to meet new friends. Other members suggested starting a book club and mentoring program within the Caucus to encourage more social interaction.

The resolution submitted to the Faculty Senate regarding domestic partner benefits passed at their December 5 meeting.

### **Upcoming Events**

Caucus Holiday Social

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2013 at 5:30pm

Spotswood Country Club (1980 Country Club Rd., Harrisonburg)

Join us in the Grand Ballroom for a fun, holiday gathering! There will be a cash bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Guests (including children) are welcome!