

Women's and Gender Studies Council Meeting
November 10, 2009

Minutes

In attendance: Alicia Groatman, Andrew Hottle, Melissa Klapper, Marge Morris, Joel Rudin, Carol Thompson, Ieva Zake

Excused: Cory Blake, Tanya Clark, Janet Lindman, Deb Martin, Lee Talley

The meeting was called to order at 12:20.

The minutes from the October 7 meeting were approved.

The portfolio requirement was approved in principle by the Senate Curriculum Committee, which asked for a few clarifications. The Senate Curriculum Committee also asked the WGS Council to consider the question of whether to implement the portfolio requirement through the mechanism of a zero credit course. After discussion, the Council decided not to adopt a zero credit course mechanism. Hottle will resubmit the proposal with the minor revisions.

Aimee Burgin, though disappointed, is now supportive of the change from a WGS Program Sequence A to a Program Sequence B. She has also agreed that next fall she will begin advising Liberal Studies students to that end regardless of the technical start date of the change. Meanwhile, the students currently in the Program Sequence A will be allowed to substitute any first tier WGS course for the capstone course but will need to take Philosophy of Gender/Feminist Ethics as currently required. The WGS Curriculum Committee will work on the proposal for the change and submit it by the February deadline.

Sarah Kay's performance is set for Monday, November 23, starting around 11:15 in the Student Center Pit. Before her performance, WGS student Jill Steier will speak briefly about the program, and we will pass out flyers to the audience. Two Rowan student spoken word artists will perform brief pieces and then Deb Martin's assistant Megan Reese will introduce Kay. All Council and Advisory Board members should publicize this event to students and colleagues. CLAS put a flyer on the bulletin board, posted the information on its Facebook page, and alerted all dept. secretaries, chairs, and program directors. Rudin will email the majors mailing lists. Groatman will email the WGS students. Martin will post the event on Rowan Announcer. Hottle will contact Emily Kostich, editor of *The Whit*, and look into turning the flyer into a large poster for the Student Center. Klapper will contact Liz Palmer, WGS student and SGA president.

Women of Note: A Tribute to Women Composers will be on Thursday, March 4, at 7 pm. Morris and Klapper will report on the November 10 concert committee meeting at the next WGS Council meeting. Morris will put together a small exhibit on the guest composer, Joan Tower, in the Music Library in Wilson Hall.

WGS will be collaborating with the Presidential Lecture Series to bring Gail Collins, *New York Times* columnist, to campus on Tuesday, April 27. The format will be an 11 public lecture and a master class later in the day. Klapper will ask Allison Carter to require/strongly encourage the Women and Gender in Perspective Students to attend the public lecture. The Office of the President will take care of most of the planning for this event, but WGS will appear on the publicity materials as the host program and will help build an audience.

In addition to the concert and the Presidential Lecture, there should be at least 2 more WGS events during the spring semester, preferably including one after spring break during March in honor of Women's History Month. Lloyd Black, adjunct instructor of astronomy, has offered to make a presentation on women and astronomy. The Events Committee will contact him to work out a time and place, preferably within the framework of an existing class, for this event. Thompson has agreed to try to come up with some possible WGS programs in the College of Education that would further WGS's goal of collaborating with multiple campus entities this year.

There are several new posters up in the WGS office, and if there is any money left in the budget at the end of the year, we will order some more. There are also new program flyers available in Christine DiBlasi's office.

Four students have added the WGS concentration this semester. We have now started to count the Liberal Studies students completing the WGS program sequence, which brings our total count to at least 22 students. This number represents a major increase. All WGS Council and Advisory Board members should continue to encourage their students to add the concentration.

A current WGS student asked if it might be possible to obtain honor cords for graduation. For a variety of reasons, it is not possible to get honor cords for the WGS graduates, but the Council members voted unanimously to purchase "Women's and Gender Studies Graduate" buttons from the National Women's Studies Association and to give them to our students as they graduate. Klapper and DiBlasi will order the buttons, and Klapper will let the students know about this new initiative.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at 12:15 in the WGS office.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00.