Minutes
Tuesday, November 17, 2015
12:00-1:00 p.m.
Committee on the Status of Women (CSW)

Attendees: Amy Franklin, Ezinne Ogbureke, Janet Peri, Priya Weerasinghe, Mary Ann Smith, Catherine Troisi, Nesh Aqrawi, Jing Wang, Dennie Clemons, Joan Hernandez-McClain, Sondra Faul, Michele Stanton, Renee Williams, Shvon Lowe - (call in), Maria Elena Apodaca, Nitha Joseph, and Kathy Rodgers

Absences: Susan Guerrero, Kelly Moore, Elizabeth Huynh, Peggy Rose, Robin Jones, Bonnie Schoenbein, and Daniella Chambers

I. Welcome & Call to Order
2016 Chair called the meeting to order at 12.06 p.m.

Approval of October Minutes

II. A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2015 meeting.

III. Sub-Committee Reports

DPW Awards

• Timeline was shared with members. Call for nominations by December 14, 2015 with a deadline for submissions on February 5, 2016.

• Award ceremony will be conducted during the CSW Professional Development Women in Leadership Panel presentation with nominees and prior recipients as possible panelists.

• Recommendation made and accepted to revise the award rubric to level the playing field and to provide more guidance for the reviewers.

• Members suggested modification of the award to better qualify all females equally:
  o Divide into two awards: One for faculty and one for staff. Equal cash prizes and criteria applicable for area of expertise.
  o Three qualifying categories – rotating area of definition each year – to better represent all professional women at UTHelth. Examples provided included distinguished career, service to others, exemplary leadership, year of compassion, community service.

  All members favored the later suggestion to represent all UTHelth professional women.

• DPW subcommittee will develop guidelines for the three categories and present them at a future meeting.
• Proposal for changes will be presented to EVPARA.

Outreach

In addition to helping in the local community, CSW is interested in providing support in house.

• Short term goals
  - Collaborate with Society for Women and Leadership (SWAL) in donation drive to collect feminine hygiene products – travel size - and socks for homeless shelters and group homes for children. CSW will submit request to Auxiliary Enterprises for approval to add more drop box locations around UTHealth. SWAL flyer will be modified to include CSW in the signage. Items will be collected between December 7th and 18th to deliver by December 23rd.
  - Other drives could include helping UTHealth School of Nursing collect can food items for homeless, a snack pack drive for HCPC for summer project and more.

• Long term goals
  CSW Backpack Drive – Fill the bag to help medical, nursing, dental and other students with essential items that can become costly while on a mission trip. Items needed may be hygiene products, warm gloves, ramen noodles, snack bars, batteries, etc. CSW would work with school administrators to obtain list of students going on missions.

Professional Development

• “Lean-In” group for CSW will begin in January 2016 as a pilot program with about 10 members. Participation is voluntary and the first 10 people will receive a Lean-In book. Group members will have some small assignments, such as reading chapters in the book, and will meet monthly (in addition to CSW monthly meetings).

• Women In Leadership Panel Presentation - Members were asked to send in possible topics of discussion, theme and goals for the panel discussion. Goal would be to inspire individuals, provide skills and teach measuring success, etc. Sample question: How has a mentor or sponsor helped you throughout your education/career? Focus on what support structure will be used and what are the possible impediments.

Communications

CSW website updates are still needed for 2016 on the following pages: members, DWP Awards, minutes and events. Collaborations with other subcommittees will continue to update on flyers and the website.

IV. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1.00 PM. Next meeting will be on December 15, 2015.