Provost’s Advisory Committee for Women’s Concerns Meeting
January 22, 2009
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Present: Maureen Beal (Financial Operations), Patricia Beeson (Provost’s Office/Chair), Jean Ferguson Carr (English/Women’s Studies), Katie Greeno (Social Work), Kathleen O’Connor (Computer Science), Deirdre O’Rourke (Theatre Arts), Joan Lakoski (Medicine), Kathleen Pratt (Human Resources), Maureen Porter (Education), Mary Koch Ruiz (Sexual Assault Services), Joanne Russell (Public Health), Erin Schaefer (A&S), Frances Zauhar (UPJ/English Literature), Stephanie Hoogendoorn (Provost’s Office)

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the September 25, 2008 meeting were approved as written.

Announcements
Members shared dates of upcoming events that may be of interest to others.

Association of American Colleges and Universities “A Measure of Equity: Women’s Progress in Higher Education” study
Members reviewed and discussed findings of the percentage of women at each stage in the educational pipeline. Women are making up increasing proportions of the population of senior administrators, but only at community colleges do they constitute a majority.

University Senate Updates
- The staff mentoring workshop organized by the Ad hoc Committee for the Promotion of Gender Equity was very useful but was quite time intensive to organize.
- The childcare group of this Ad hoc Committee has met with Ron Frisch to discuss the University Child Development Center (UCDC). Because there are more options for kindergarten, the UCDC is eliminating its kindergarten program to free up spaces for younger children. Possible alternatives for kindergarten might be found at the Falk School where staff and faculty can receive a discount. This is a great effort between Human Resources and the childcare group.
- The Faculty Assembly has passed a resolution urging Pitt units to provide private space for new mothers to pump breast milk.

Revisions to the Sexual Harassment Policy
A recent court decision involving Temple University has made it necessary to change some of the language in our Sexual Harassment policy. There are two primary proposed changes from the Office of General Council. One is the addition of section III.B. that describes the different standard the courts apply in a classroom discussion, or other contexts in which academic freedom or first amendment rights allow dictate a different standard. Section IX. is also new and provides examples. There are also changes to the wording of other sections that are reflective of the language used by the courts.

Two University Senate committees are carefully reviewing these changes, namely the Anti Discriminatory Policies Committee and the Ad hoc Committee for the Promotion of Gender Equity.
**Benchmarking Subcommittee**
Maureen Porter highlighted their activities, focusing on information gathered about the Safe Rider program. The subcommittee suggested that the services provided by Safe Rider may not be communicated accurately to students. This misinformation may explain some of the student complaints. Safe Rider offers point-to-point service and is not meant to be a shuttle that can pick up students at stops without calling in advance. This point-to-point service may not fulfill all the needs of students. The subcommittee will be looking at comparable services offered at other universities.

**Benchmarking Subcommittee**
The subcommittee will report at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of PACWC will take place on Thursday May 20, 2009.