Provost’s Advisory Committee for Women’s Concerns Meeting
September 25, 2008
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Present: Patricia Beeson (Provost’s Office/Chair), Jean Ferguson Carr (English/Women’s Studies), Janice Dorman (Nursing), Katie Greeno (Social Work), Julie Hoggarth (Anthropology), Kathleen O’Connor (Computer Science), Deirdre O’Rourke (Theatre Arts), Irina Livezeanu (History), Kelly Otter (College of General Studies), Kathleen Pratt (Human Resources), Maureen Porter (Education), Anne Robertson (Engineering), Mary Koch Ruiz (Sexual Assault Services), Joanne Russell (Public Health), Erin Schaefer (A&S), Frances Zauhar (UPJ/English Literature), Stephanie Hoogendoorn (Provost’s Office)

Introduction of PACWC Members
PACWC Members introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the May 12, 2008 meeting were approved as written.

PACWC’s role at the University
Patty Beeson reviewed the organization of PACWC, including how issues get brought to the attention of the Provost. She reviewed some of the issues and items accomplished by PACWC as highlighted in the posters displayed at PACWC’s 25th Anniversary reception, which are available online at http://www.provost.pitt.edu/documents/PACWC_25_Years.pdf.

Announcements
The annual Reception Welcoming New Women Faculty is scheduled for October 28th.

Approval of the Annual Report
The 2007-2008 Annual Report was approved as written.

Benchmarking Subcommittee
Maureen Porter, Chair, presented a summary of the responses collected in 2007-2008 from female faculty, undergraduate students, and graduate and professional students about broad issues listed on the long-term agenda on women’s concerns. The results of the staff survey are not yet available. The goal of the survey was to assess perceived progress on women’s issues, remove issues from the agenda that have been addressed, identify issues that need to be added to the agenda, and prioritize the issues on the updated agenda.

Goals for this subcommittee in 2008-2009 are to
- update and prioritize the long-term agenda on women’s concerns
- make recommendations on how to address the safety concerns expressed by the undergraduates
- provide advice on how best to communicate with faculty, staff, and students about existing university-wide resources and policies.
Mentoring Subcommittee
Jan Dorman, Chair, presented the current draft of the faculty mentoring resources Web site that the subcommittee began composing in 2007-2008. The intended audience of the Web site are male and female assistant professors seeking mentoring in order to be promoted.

Goals for this subcommittee in 2008-2009 are to
- add specific reference tools to the draft guidelines
- think about how add resources to mentor male and female faculty beyond tenure.

PACWC Members were asked to sign up to serve on a subcommittee. The Chairs of the subcommittees should convene their groups as soon as possible.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of PACWC will take place on Thursday, January 22, 2009.