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COMMISSION FOR WOMEN YEAR END REPORT
FOR 1990-91

The UTK Commission for Women is a committee appointed by Chancellor John Quinn to advise him on planning, implementation and evaluation of University programs and policies designed to improve the status of women. The 1990-91 CFW was composed of 25 members consisting of 9 faculty, 10 staff exempt and non exempt members, and 6 students. It is also the charge of the Commission to recommend changes in policies or procedures relative to the concerns of women, to consult and advise university officials on the needs and status of women and in some cases to recommend and encourage research to assess the status of women faculty, staff and students.

This year the charge of the Commission, as mandated by Chancellor Quinn, was to study the status of women at UTK. To conduct this study the Chair divided the Commission into six subcommittees to address the issues and concerns of the following areas: faculty, childcare and maternity leave, safety and sexual harrassment, staff exempt, non-exempt, and students. The committees have already begun collecting data and holding group meetings to encourage individuals to voice their concerns. Although progress has been made, there is still much to be done.

When the Commission began this task force study a time frame of approximately 18 to 24 months was established in which to complete it. However, due to budget constraints, our progress has been impeded. The Commission will continue to work on this study during the 1991-92 academic year. During this coming year we will require additional financial support to complete the data collection, analysis, write up and publication of the study.

During the week of March 4-8, 1991, the Commission sponsored and promoted several activities during Women's Week, a celebration in honor of women on campus and to increase the visibility of women's issues, achievements and accomplishments. Highlights of the week included:

Focus on Women luncheon on "Women and Wellness" featuring Rosa Emory, Wellness Coordinator

Women 's Studies reception hosted by Dr. Osborne, Chair of Women's Studies

The film "Marie's Story", discussion led by Dr. Chris Holmlund, Assistant Professor, Romance Languages (co-sponsored by the CFW and shown the following week)

Chancellor's Reception for all UT Knoxville women

Forum: Women in Politics

The Commission in conjunction with Women's Health Services of the University Medical Center sponsored the Mobil Mammography unit screening for breast cancer for two weeks in November.

On February 26th the Chair served on a panel sponsored by the American Association of University Professors. The topic of discussion was "The Status of Faculty Women". The Chair used this opportunity to discuss the task force study currently being conducted by the CFW, and also invited others to share their concerns and ideas for the study with Commission members.

The Commission considers the charge of conducting the task force study on women as a tremendous challenge as well as a much needed study. We are aware of and understand the present budget constraints and possible future budget problems of the University. However, the study we are presently doing could shed valuable light on the current status of women at UTK, and because of it's potential value should be funded adequately to insure its completion. We hope the Chancellor will also share this committment to the study and will provide the funds necessary to complete the study at the earliest possible opportunity.

Nina T. Elliott
Chair, CFW
July 19, 1991