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Commission for Women

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From the Chair ... Norma Cox Cook

On behalf of this year's Commission for Women, I invite you to join us in our mission of improving the status of women at UTK.

Your participation in the Commission's recent review of women's status on campus resulted in a March 1994 report to the Chancellor. Thirty-four recommendations for action were made on the following issues: advancement, professional development, and representation; child care; part-time issues; safety; salary; sexual harassment; and student issues. We have begun receiving responses to our recommendations from the Chancellor's Office, a process to be completed by early March, 1995.

Your involvement continues to be important, and as your representatives we welcome your comments, ideas, and feedback. You may call me at 974-7067 to discuss any issue relate to the concerns of women.

Commission for Women

The UTK Commission for Women is appointed by the Chancellor to advise on planning, implementation, and evaluation of University programs, policies, and services designed to improve the status of women. The Commission's charges include:
- Recommending changes in policy or procedure relative to the concerns of women
- Facilitating coordination of new and existing academic and extracurricular programs
- Recommending and encouraging research to assess the status of women at UTK and comparing their status with that of women at other institutions and agencies
- Assisting in the evaluation and revision of the Affirmative Action Plan
- Advising and consulting with all University officials on the needs and status of women
- Aiding in ensuring campus and community access to information on Commission and University activities related to women

The chair and vice-chair are appointed annually by the Chancellor. The Commission consists of a proportionate number of faculty, exempt and non-exempt staff members, and students, equitably distributed among various colleges, schools and administrative units. Appointments are made on an annual basis. The Commission meets at 12:00 noon on the first Thursday of every month. The remaining meeting dates and locations for 1994-95 are:

1 Dec. 1994 221 University Center
2 Feb. 1995 220 University Center
2 Mar. 1995 8th Fl. Board Room, AH Tower
6 Apr. 1995 4th Floor Conf. Rm., AH Tower
4 May 1995 4th Floor Conf. Rm., AH Tower

Changes in the Office of Affirmative Action

The Office of Affirmative Action - Programming has changed its name to Diversity Resources and Educational Services (DRES) and moved to a renovated house at 1811 Lake Avenue. The change is primarily the result of work done by faculty and staff in the project titled A Change Model. Camille Hazeur, Director, states that she has been asking for some time for additional space to create dialogues around issues of diversity. DRES will continue to handle all workshops and presentations on issues of discrimination (including sexual
harassment), complaints of discrimination, and will direct compliance functions (writing the AA Plan, and data collection). DRES' primary function will be to serve as a central place where issues of diversity can be examined and discussed. The facility will house a reading/resource room, quiet study area, and meeting rooms for use by the DRES staff and other campus groups and classes. Camille Hazeur stresses that DRES is a public facility and will be fully operational in the early Spring semester. DRES staff include Camille Hazeur, Dhyana Ziegler, Marva Rudolph, Jenny Richter, Khadra Baskin, Missy Croft, Graduate students Jun Wang, Dana Henderson, and Gonghui Lui. The number is 974-2498.

Women's Coordinating Council and Women's Center

The Women's Coordinating Council is a student organization which plans programs on a variety of issues pertinent to college women. The WCC regularly presents prominent speakers and writers as well as films and interactive workshops. Some of the speakers being tentatively considered for Spring 1995 programming include poet Angela Bowen, South African feminist Rowena Maart, and "Twenty-Something" feminist Paula Kamen. The WCC welcomes programming suggestions. For further information about the WCC, contact Amy Mounts or Karen Griffin at 974-5455.

The WCC works closely with the volunteer staff of the Women's Center. The Women's Center is located in room 301 University Center. The dedicated volunteers at the Women's Center provide students and faculty with information and referrals on a variety of women's issues including women's health, child care, feminist theory, and feminist literary criticism. The Center has a small library and loans books for two week periods. The Women's Center library gladly accepts donations of books or articles of interest to women. For further information call Danielle Cohen or Karen Griffin at 974-1029.

Good News!

In this year's entering class in the UTK College of Law, there are 79 women and 80 men.

Dr. Linda Resnick Maxson will join the University of Tennessee, Knoxville as Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Maxson is currently the head of the biology program at Pennsylvania State University. Maxson earned a doctorate in genetics at the University of California-Berkeley. Maxson will also be Dean of Undergraduate Affairs, and will supervise and coordinate undergraduate curricular programs. She will chair the Undergraduate Council and will advise Vice Chancellor John Peters on matters related to faculty appointment, promotion and tenure. Maxson is expected to assume her new post 1 January 1995.

Dr. Cheryl B. Travis, Professor of Psychology, is president-elect of Division 35 (Psychology of Women) of the American Psychological Association.

Dr. Nina Elliott has been promoted to Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. She has served in the Academic Affairs Office since 1986, most recently as Assistant to the Vice Chancellor. She holds a part-time appointment as Assistant Professor in the College of Education. Elliott will be responsible for academic personnel matters, the Dual Career Assistance Program, development workshops for academic administrators, fiscal matters connected with Academic Affairs, and will work closely with the Vice Chancellor on minority affairs relating to students and faculty.

Dr. Arlene Garrison has been promoted to Director of the Measurement and Control Engineering Center. She has served as Acting Director of three years. Based in the College of Engineering, the Center is a National Science Foundation Industry-University Cooperative Research Center, and Garrison will work with industry partners to identify areas of common interest. She will continue to work with the K-12 Science-Engineering Outreach Program

Professor Marleen Davis has joined UTK as Dean of the College of Architecture and Planning. Davis comes from Syracuse University where she was an Associate professor in the School of Architecture. She has a Master of Architecture degree from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard.
Graduate Student Research on Gender

The Gender Research Forum is a relatively informal brown bag lunch meeting where graduate students and faculty have the opportunity to present their research or scholarship involving gender. The objective of the Forum is to provide a supportive atmosphere where the study of gender is viewed as a legitimate topic of scholarship. Following are some examples of the research being conducted by the Gender Research Forum participants this semester.

- Patricia Adams is currently working on her Master's thesis on Eating Disorders. She notes that eating disorders are a gender issue in that 90% of the cases are in women.

- Celeste Gaia is working together with Patricia Adams on a project that involves the influence of printed media (especially popular women's magazines) on the number of eating disorders diagnosed. In some magazines, they found 75 articles in one year dealing with weight loss and dieting.

- Diane Gressley recently presented a proposal of her dissertation on breast cancer, medical expertise, and medical decision making. Her objective is to gain understanding in the decision making process that is relevant in physician's diagnosis of breast cancer from various sets of mammograms. In addition, Gressley and Patricia Adams recently presented at the Southern Regional Conference of the Association for Women in Psychology annual meeting on "Regional Variations in Childbirth Technology and Infant Mortality."

- Sherry Rostosky is working on four research projects. She is examining the social construction of menopause and sexuality with Dr. Travis; the biomedical model of menopause with Dr. Travis and Jessica Blalock; gender differences in adolescent depression and self-concept with Dr. Deborah Welsh; and adolescent sexuality from an ecological perspective, also with Dr. Welsh.

- Kristin Siebrecht and Dr. Cheryl Travis have just completed a manuscript entitled "Gender Differences and Sexual Tension in Friendship: Matters of Power," to be submitted to Psychology of Women Quarterly.

- Bethany Spiller's research interests are in women's health issues, particularly the etiology of eating disorders and the role our culture plays in their development and perpetuation.

Although the Gender Research Forum is not an "open meeting," individuals who are committed to the study of gender, and who are interested in becoming a participant in the Gender Research Forum, should contact Dr. Cheryl Travis at 974-6843.

UT Employee Honored by the YWCA

Jean Spangler, a UT employee of 23 years, is one of six women who received this year's YWCA Tribute to Women award.

Jean Spangler received the Volunteer Community Service award for her dedicated service to the Sexual Assault Crisis Center. Spangler's early volunteer work at the center consisted mainly of answering the Help Line and making referrals for survivors of sexual assault. She later began doing hospital accompaniments. Spangler explained, "When someone who has been raped goes to the emergency ward, a hospital staff member asks the survivor if he or she would like to have a counselor. When a counselor is requested, the hospital calls the Sexual Assault Crisis Center and they page me on the beeper."

Spangler carries the pager for at least one 12-hour shift per week; at times she has carried it for as long as one month. Most often, Spangler is paged in the middle of the night. She stays with the survivor for about four hours, during which time she may also accompany the survivor to the police station. When asked what motivates her to give so much of herself, Spangler answered, "I have a daughter, a mother, friends. I would hate for them to be sexually assaulted and not have someone from the center with them. I think it makes a big difference."

Women's Studies Course: Spring 1995

A new course is being offered in Women's Studies: The Italian Women's Movement: Divas, Directors and Writers. The course aims to dispel the amazement of those who wonder how feminism could have taken root in a country where women have been wearing black shawls and their public life has been limited to an appearance. For more information call Flavia Brizio at 974-2311.
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Inquiries concerning Title IX, Section 504, and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 should be directed to the Office of Affirmative Action, 405-C Andy Holt Tower, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0144; (615) 974-2498. Charges of violation of the above policy should also be directed to the Office of Affirmative Action.