

Women's Caucus Business Meeting
2004 National Communication Association Convention, Chicago, IL

Minutes

I. Welcome from Chair Mary Rose Williams

II. Reports

A. Vice Chair Pam Tracy's Report on 2004 Programming

The Caucus had a 100 percent acceptance rate this year. GLBT and African American Communication divisions received Women's Caucus slots with four unused program slots remaining.

B. Past Chair Sheryl Lidzy's Report

1. **Francine Merritt Award:** Brenda Allen is the 2004 recipient. Her reception followed the Caucus business meeting. *Spectra* did not run the call for 2004 nominations last winter, despite receiving the Caucus' release for calls.
2. **Legislative Council/Assembly:** There is a new Nonverbal Communication Division. Discussion for certification of undergraduate programs continues. Conversation about All Academic's online troubles/failings continues, particularly regarding program planning. NCA is trying to put together an expert database and has requested "key words" from and for the Caucus for those searching for our expertise.

C. Newsletter Editors Kim Golombisky and Kristina Horn Sheeler's Report:

The first issue of *Voices*, the newsletter of the Women's Caucus and Feminist & Women's Studies Division went out as an email PDF attachment in early October. Recipients were limited to those who had attended last year's business meetings and signed their email addresses. As NCA's web hosting has been delayed for more than nine months, Kristina will look into an alternative web host for the next issue. Kim and Kristina will continue as editors next year to get the web version up and running.

D. Student Representative Victoria Newsom's Report

The three "Womentoring" and Academic Identity Sessions in Chicago were a huge success and will be proposed again for next year. Officers praised the graduate students initiative, which included planning the sessions and enlisting sponsors to pay for refreshments.

III. Elections

A. 2nd Vice Chair Elect/Treasurer/Purple Ribbon Sales: Dr. Victoria Newsom

B. Student Representatives: Toneisha Taylor, Felicia Sanders, Katherine Hickok-Burk (Bowling Green)

IV. Announcements

Anita Taylor presented a call for *Women & Language*. A number of attendees announced position openings for their schools and encouraged women and feminists to apply.

V. Old Business

A. Intercaucus Alliance: Roseann Mandziuk

WC will continue to work for intercaucus solidarity.

B. Website: Kristina Horn Sheeler (see newsletter report)

C. Pipeline Committee: Roseann Mandziuk

Roseann and Lynda Dee Dixon urge WC members to nominate themselves or other women for NCA committee openings. The group decided the WC chair will call for nominations for key NCA positions and continue to work with WC officers and members to put forward willing women of stature.

VI. New Business

A. Revised WC Goals: Mary Rose Williams initiated discussion about revising/updating WC's goals. There was general consensus on:

1. **Professional Issues:** WC's mission has been and will continue to be concerned with the status and advancement of women both in the academy and in NCA, including professional and leadership issues. This mission is distinct from The Feminist & Women's Studies Division, which was formed to provide a forum for research and scholarship on feminist and women's issues.
2. **Diversity Issues:** WC has failed to achieve its ongoing diversity goals. WC will renew its commitment to increase the diversity of its membership.
3. **Solidarity Priorities:** WC will continue to work for solidarity among other divisions, interest groups, and caucuses that support and address progressive agendas.
4. **Collecting and Preserving History:** WC will begin a more concerted effort to collect the history of women in the NCA as well as the history of WC and F&WSD, and to begin to think about how to make that history accessible.

B. Program Ideas for 2005 in Boston:

1. **Student Committee:** will reprise "Womentoring" and Academic Identities Programming in 2005.
2. **Scheduling:** Vice Chair Elect Cami Sanderson, responsible for 2005 programming, will try to avoid scheduling conflicts such as the scheduling the Francine Merritt reception against the F&WSD business meeting this year. Cami also will try to encourage and network with the caucuses for jointly sponsored panels, which will have to be unofficial co-sponsorships because of the limitations of All Academic's online format. Cami also will revisit the call to make sure it reflects these objectives.
3. **Alternative Formats:** WC will try to plan even more alternative panel formats.
4. **Proposed Panel Topics:** Additional proposed panel topics for 2005 included negotiating family-friendly policies for faculty members, the feminization of service, retaining diversity among faculty

members, and a brain-storming panel for WC to continue discussing its mission.

VII. Passing the Gavel: Mary Rose Williams passed the gavel to Pam Tracy.

2005 Officers:

Mary Rose Williams, past chair/coordinator Francine Merritt Award

Pam Tracy, chair/legislative representative

Cami Sanderson, vice chair/program planner

Kim Golombisky, 1st vice chair/secretary

Roseann Mandziuk, Interaucus Committee, Pipeline Committee

Victoria Newsom, 2nd vice chair/treasurer-fund raising

Student Committee: Toneisha Taylor, Felicia Sanders, Katherine Hickok-Burk

Newsletter Editors: Kim Golombisky & Kristina Horn Sheeler

VIII. Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Kim Golombisky