

# **Provost's Gender Equity Council**

## **2009-2010 Final Report**

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**Co-Chairs:**

**Gale Summerfield  
and  
Kathryn Anthony**

**May 10, 2010**

## **I. Team Members**

Gale Summerfield, Committee Co-Chair, Director of Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program, Associate Professor of Human and Community Development

Kathryn Anthony, Committee Co-Chair, Professor of Architecture

Jennifer Bernard, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Dorothy Espelage, Department of Educational Psychology

Jennifer Hamer, Department of African American Studies

Mona Heath, Office of the Chief Information Officer

Iwona Jasiuk, Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering

Timothy McCarthy, Department of Philosophy

David Meyer, College of Law

Helen Neville, Department of Educational Psychology/ African American Studies

Ramona Oswald, Department of Human & Community Development

Mena Pratt-Clarke, Office of Equal Opportunity and Access

Joanna Shisler, Department of Microbiology

Lori Williamson, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

Barbara Wilson, Office of the Provost (Ex-officio)

Peg O'Donoghue, Office of the Chancellor (Ex-officio)

Leeswann Bolden, Student Support

Anita Kaiser, Program Development Coordinator, Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program

## II. Summary of Activities

During 2009-10 the Provost's Gender Equity Council met a total of seven times on September 21, October 19, November 16, December 7, February 15, March 15, and April 19. We had an active and productive year. Among our major accomplishments:

1. We were one of the primary co-sponsors of the highly successful lecture by Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus. The lecture took place on March 1, 2010 to a packed house in the Foellinger Auditorium. It was by far the largest audience ever in the history of the Provost's Gender Equity Council Lecture series. As a result, we plan to invite increasingly high-profile speakers in the future, co-sponsored with other units, in order to create the widest possible audience for gender equity issues and the largest impact on our students, faculty, and university community. Among those we are considering are Hillary Clinton, Michele Obama, and Sonia Sotomayor.
2. We issued a Request for Proposal to address a serious problem on campus, a pressing need to increase awareness of women's contributions to various disciplines on campus. We solicited, chose, and funded a total of five projects to create lively multi-media displays across campus highlighting the accomplishments of women at Illinois. The displays will be exhibited using existing projection equipment already on campus and will be self-sustaining, available for display indefinitely.
3. We initiated a Space and Place Subcommittee that, together with the staff at Facilities and Services, is developing a pro-active procedure to incorporate gender equity issues into the design review process for new construction and major renovations of campus buildings. We developed guidelines for gender-friendly campus restrooms, lactation spaces, and gender-friendly podiums that can be incorporated directly into the Facilities and Services' Facility Standards. The outcome will be a university environment that is much more welcoming to women and men, families and children. Such changes can serve as a recruiting tool for more diverse faculty, academic professionals, staff, and students.
4. We redesigned the Provost's Gender Equity Council web page to include valuable information from this year's committee as well as speakers from prior years' lecture series. We set up a template that can be easily used in the future.
5. We discussed a number of other important issues that may be addressed by a future committee. These included the possibility of collecting additional data, such as repeating a campus climate study and identifying and addressing obstacles in the recruitment, retention of women faculty.
6. We invited a number of experts from across campus to address key gender equity issues before the committee. They included Carol Livingstone (Division of Management Information), Menah Pratt-Clarke (Office of Equal Opportunity and Access), Helen Coleman (Facilities and Services Planning Division), and Jack Dempsey (Facilities and Services).

We provided a Gender Equity Council Action List for each meeting summarizing the issues we were addressing, date originated, action and strategies to address them, delegated committee members, implementation timelines, and next steps needed. Each Action List is attached here.

### **III. Appendices**

Appendix A. Gender Equity Council Action Lists – (October 19, November 16, December 7, February 15, March 15, and April 19.)

Appendix B. Gender Equity Council Request for Proposals (RFP)

Appendix C. Abstracts of Proposals Funded by Gender Equity Council

Appendix D. Sample Gender Equity Council-initiated Design Review Guidelines for public restrooms, lactation spaces, and podiums to be incorporated into Facilities and Services' Facility Standards

Appendix E. Gender Equity 2010 Financial Recap

Appendix F. Muhammad Yunus Event Poster