

Meeting Minutes
Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
September 10, 2014, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Nash School, Augusta

Welcome

Present: Andrea Irwin, Regina Rooney, Holly Stover, Jessica Maurer, Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Melissa Simones, Jennifer Burke, Fatuma Hussein, Bre Kidman
No participants via conference call or GoToMeeting.

Review and Approve Minutes from July meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from 07/09/14 - Regina, second - Jessica, all in favor.

Committee Reports/Updates:

Governance - Elizabeth

Gary Walcott has been appointed by the Governor. Following-up on a couple of recommendations for the Tribal Seat. Several expiration dates in November. One At Large seat (Sharon Campbell) open. Several appointment dates have passed. We have reached out to the Speaker's Office. As long as you're not removed, you're official. Regina will reach out to a potential representative of women in agriculture, Jess - Barbara Crowley/health care, Holly - Marjorie Withers/health care. Melissa will let Jessica Laliberte know that she has been appointed.

Outreach -Jen

Bre put together a comprehensive survey analysis from over 3,000 surveys. Results are from both the hard data and the open-ended questions. Open for thoughts and suggestions. Send edits via email to Jen in Track Changes by 9/19/14.

Regina - Looks nearly complete. Should we add "survey respondent" to the quotes?

Jess -Interested in crosstabs between different groups, ex: distinctions between young/old, affluent/poor. What are the takeaways we may be able to highlight for underserved populations?

Elizabeth - Interested in county information.

Regina will handle the printing/graphic design: Portland School of Art? What about the connections made with universities this summer?

Jen - Too late to get assistance from universities this semester. We have enough to give to the Legislature in January. We can follow up with details at the end of session. Statutorily, we do not have to do a survey.

Elizabeth – We can ask the Legislature what information they are looking for this session so that we can feedback info that can be used immediately.

Andrea - Looking to the future, it would be good to have students enter the survey info. Create an expectation that this will happen biennially.

Melissa - Bates/Women Gender Studies encourages service learning projects.

Jess - Bates can help in January.

Andrea – Next steps: Everyone thoroughly read survey and come in with questions. Bre will email data from Survey Monkey in a readable format. If too complicated, we will save for next semester.

Jen - Do we need a conclusion in the survey analysis? Report will have conclusions as well.

Who will take the lead reaching out to Bates/the higher ed groups?

Elizabeth - Request a top page that encourages people to dig in.

Melissa - Oversampling of those with higher educational achievement.

Jess –This is where crosstabs will be very helpful. We could have 4 or 5 research partners that each

have a focus group on their campuses for the next report.

Fatuma - Immigrant populations not targeted this time. Happy to facilitate focus groups. That is a better fit for that population than a survey.

Regina - May also be a strategy for other gaps.

Elizabeth - Feel strongly that any policy recommendations we make be by consensus.

Report - Regina

Bre also helping the Report Committee. We have a draft for you to see where we are at. Committee focused on making sure the citations in the report are very solid. These are just ideas of what policy recommendations might look like. Should be made by consensus.

Jen - When we put the last report together, we were a new commission and not in a position to do policy recommendations. We came up with broad policy scopes by design. If we propose policy recommendations, we need to design a process for doing so.

Regina - Report has a mixture of Maine and national data.

Jess - Make sure we review all gender specific reports for recommendations.

Andrea - Any other government appointed commissions grappling with same questions?

Regina - Looking at other existing models makes a lot of sense.

Jen - Non-partisan policies important. Policy recommendations need to pass consensus within our group - unified decision of commission. Consensus, credibility, and willing to lead.

Jess - Discuss report with committee of jurisdiction, the female chairs of all the committees, and Marian Hylan Barr, Director of OPLA.

Andrea - She and Elizabeth met with Speaker Eves and Anna Hicks who asked, "What else does your commission do?" This is a good launching point. We can make specific recommendations.

Regina - Need to formerly decide on policy recommendations at the next meeting. Regina will look at other states as models to present at next Report meeting on 9/29 from 11:00-12:00.

Finance – on hiatus until Fall

New England Women's Policy Commission Forum, November 7th - Holly

Conference call tomorrow with all of the NE states. The online registration form will be available by next week. Amy has prepared an outline of our plenary with Marjorie, Fatuma and dee. Robin now unavailable. Any suggestions for someone who can address economic security issues? Chris Hastedt, Maine Equal Justice Partners. Jen has a list of who is attending and will dial in to the call tomorrow. There is a block of rooms within a mile of the JKK Library that are available at a discounted rate. Holly will ask for a list of the names of the people who have registered from Maine. Andrea – Amy has done a lot of planning. Interested in knowing if anyone has a van and if we could circulate the registration link. We are the only NE state that is not funded. Thank you for volunteering.

Other Business

Jen – Would like to step down as Vice-Chair and Reports Committee Chair.

Melissa – Maine Women's Network is looking for potential nominees for women in our communities who go above and beyond to help their neighbors or someone who would like to be on the planning committee. Contact is Jennifer Gaylord.

Adjourn – 2:45 pm

Next Meeting is Wednesday, October 8, 2014, 12-2pm

Following meeting on November 12, 2014. We could have a 90 min meeting every month instead.

Adjourn (No quorum, Elizabeth excused at 2:00.)