

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Permanent Commission on the Status of Women**  
November 13, 2013, 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM  
Nash School, Augusta

**Welcome & Introductions:**

Present: Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Romy Spitz, Melissa Simones, Holly Stover, Regina Rooney, Sarah Reuf-Lindquist

Participating via conference call: Jennifer Burke, Fatuma Hussein, Cheryl Timberlake, Marianne Moore, Samantha Lott Hale

Absent: Karen Keim, Julia Colpitts, Brenda Commander, Sharon Campbell, Ruth Summers

**Review and Approve Minutes from September Meeting**

Motion to accept September meeting minutes - Jen, second, all in favor.

**Committee Assignments** Need to fill vacancies/make adjustments and build out the Report Committee.

The biggest challenge will be the report for 2014. Review duties of each committee:

*Outreach* – Grass roots advocacy and survey. Similar in 2014 as the commission advertises itself.

*Report* (critical for 2014 priorities) – Refresh data for 2014

*Finance* – Not started yet. Can now accept funds.

*Governance* –Helped find our commission members, establish by-laws, build the infrastructure of brand a new commission. Looking for one more members.

Be thinking about which committee would be a good fit for you. Goal to have committee assignments laid out by January. Jen will reach out to the UMaine law school to see if a student would be interested in interning. Sarah will provide Jen with a contact. Elizabeth suggested emailing Kate to ask her for her advice. Romy asked if by-laws allow a non-commission member to participate in committee work if the person has an interest. Elizabeth confirmed.

**Governance Committee Update**

*Recommendations to fill remaining vacancies:* We are close to where we need to be as far as our recommendations. We have three appointing bodies. Currently waiting for reappointments of expired commissions. We may need to provide more information for Speaker and President's office.

Two seats are open: At Large/Disabilities. Women in Business a possibility for the At Large seat. We now have a link with the Maine Women's Health Campaign to fill the health gap. Let us know if you feel there are other gaps.

*Recommendation for Officers: Chair*

Hope to have a lot of officially appointed members and a chair by January. Hoping a chair will emerge among the new members. If you think you might be interested, let Elizabeth know.

**Outreach Committee Update**

*Review Outreach Committee recommendations for 2014 legislative report:*

Marianne and Jen convened a conference call to see how the Outreach Committee can help with the 2014 report. The call recap is attached to the emailed agenda. Looking to create a brief questionnaire with 4 or 5 good, strong, open-ended questions. Disseminate via our strong personal connections. Need to determine UMaine's or USM's willingness to help analyze the results. What has been the

feedback to the 2012 report? We shared the report so that members could address existing problems. Not sure what the Legislature has done with that info.

Concerns: Labor intensive data collection, no resources currently, no intern. Secondly, what is our goal? We have made no policy recommendations. How are we the most useful? Make sure that commission/report doesn't get put on a shelf. With our diverse membership, maybe there are policy issues that are so clear in this report that we can come to a consensus. For our next meeting, we need to decide what we want to do. Should the commission just provide information or suggest policy? Then, we need to create action items for each committee.

Important that the survey go out every year. We need consistent data, not a one shot.

A Report Committee and a Report Committee chair are needed. Decide whether to refresh the prior report or focus on the value added piece, rather than getting additional info. Need a report committee to decide. We had oversampling in our fields. Need to see if the same issues are relevant in different populations.

Holly – Take the broader sample size and the key issues, overlaying any trends taking place since then. Resurvey based on the key issues that have happened in our state since 2011.

Sarah – What are the implications of what was learned in the 2011-2012 process? Sounds like you'd like to engage the policy makers. Would add to the impact. Something akin to the Economic Policy Summit might work. Then, add something to the report from the meeting. Have a conversation. We are currently organizing 17 conversations around the state on poverty. Enormously time intensive, but does give you good data although not perfect for true sampling.

Jen – If everyone could hone in and think about it so that we can get going and think of where would be the best fit for you.

### **New England Women's Commission Forum in May**

The UMASS Boston Center for Women in Public Policy convened New England's 6 women's commissions to seek input in creating a policy forum in June. Jen took part in 1 call out of 3. UMASS is looking for a financial commitment. She made it clear that we cannot contribute financially. Does anyone have an interest in representing our commission? Jen can get you in contact with them. You'd have to volunteer time/mileage to attend a planning meeting in Boston. If this commission sees participation in this endeavor as valuable, maybe someone could take this on. Jen is unable to.

### **Other Items to Consider/Concerns**

Please reach out to Elizabeth or Jen in the next week regarding committee assignments.

### **Adjourn & Happy Holidays**

Have been meeting on the second Wednesday of the month, every other month.

Next Meeting is January 8, 2014 from 12:00-2:00.

Jen will send out a follow-up email with meeting dates and asking for serving on 2 committees.

Elizabeth will update the membership list.

Motion to adjourn – Marianne, second – Elizabeth, all in favor.