

## **Council on the Status of Women 2007- 2008 Summary**

The Council on the Status of Women at the University of Iowa consists of twenty voting members (five faculty, five Professional and Scientific staff, five Merit staff, and five students) and several ex officio members (representatives from UI Student Government, Graduate Student Senate, Student Services, the Women's Resource and Action Center, the Rape Victim Assistance Program, Women's Studies, Women In Science and Engineering, Faculty Senate, Staff Council, Equal Opportunity and Diversity, Center for Diversity and Enrichment, Finance and Operations, Human Resources, and Provost's Office). Faculty and staff members serve three-year terms and students serve renewable one-year terms. The Council met monthly September through June from 11:30am-1pm.

As part of the Women's Campus Coalition and again as part of the Diversity Councils Chairs, the CSW chair met with the new UI President, Sally Mason, shortly after she arrived on campus. Two CSW members were part of the diversity team that interviewed the Provost candidates in early 2008. CSW was also part of the Iowa City Violence Against Women Task Force that met regularly from fall 2007 through April 2008. And CSW members are part of the UI Campus Anti-violence Coalition. CSW works jointly with WRAC to solicit and evaluate nominations for the Jean Y. Jew Women's Rights Award, and participates in the annual spring Celebration of Excellence and Achievement among Women. In 2007-08 CSW additionally co-sponsored the Catalyst Awards, the Celebrating Cultural Diversity Festival, and signed an Amicus Brief in the case of Varnum v. Brien. In late 2007 the Council began writing a report card like the ones CSW wrote and published in the 1990s. The report card will analyze how well the UI has responded to recommendations in the Iowa Promise (strategic plan), 2004 Sexual Harassment Survey, and reports of the Diversity Action Committee, Gender Equity Task Force, and Faculty Salary Equity Study.

CSW subcommittees are open to all staff, faculty, and students. Meetings of these groups are informal and scheduled as needed. In 2007-2008 the following groups were active:

### **a) Diversity and Campus Climate**

The committee works to promote a University climate in which diverse women are recruited, promoted, and stay on campus. The committee wrote the "Gender Equity" and "Diversity" sections on the 2007-2008 CSW Report Card.  
Chair: Laura Hefley

### **b) Gender Equity in Athletics**

This CSW committee, formed in September 2005, works to see that recommendations from the Athletics Merger Review are being followed.  
Chair: Barbara Bennett

### **c) Herstory**

Herstory members worked to update the CSW web site (<http://www.uiowa.edu/csw>) so that it now includes links to reports written by CSW beginning in 1987. The committee then began work on a CSW/UITV co-production, *Women at Iowa*, to document the work, experiences, and history of women on the UI campus. Four interviews were taped and the premiere viewing was held in the Old Capital Senate chamber on Women's Equality Day, 26 August. Christine Grant was the woman interviewed on the show, and she offered a few comments after the audience viewed that first interview.

Chair: Renee Sueppel

### **d) Unwelcome Behavior**

The Unwelcome Behavior committee formed in 2005 to ensure that the University followed up on the recommendations made in the 2004 Sexual Harassment Survey and Report. Committee members gave presentations to several groups on campus and wrote the "Sexual Harassment" section of the CSW Report Card.

Chair: Liz Constantine

### **CSW Officers**

2007-08 Chair: Diana Harris, College of Engineering, P&S member

2008-09 Chair-Elect: Josey Bathke until 12/07; Mary Greer, UIHC, P&S member

Secretary/Treasurer: Liz Constantine, College of Education, P&S member