
Metro & Iowa

UI aims to improve position of women

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After receiving bad grades from the Council on the Status of Women's report card for the 1994-95 academic year, the UI is taking measures to improve the situation of women at the UI.

On Oct. 11, the council released a report which examined the UI's gender equity and assigned grades in certain areas. In the category of campus climate, the UI received a B; in salary equity, a C+; in recruitment and retention of women, a C; in sexual harassment, a C-; and in overall leadership, a D+.

Council members met with UI administration in early November to discuss the report, but the meeting did not focus directly on the report-card grades, said Deone Pedersen, chairperson

of the council's affirmative action subcommittee.

Instead, some of the information in the council's report was clarified, and UI administrators provided progress reports on things they had begun to change.

The council determined in its report that the UI has failed to allocate sufficient resources to adequately address the problem of sexual harassment, something the group focused on in its discussion.

UI acting President Peter Nathan said sexual harassment was one of the "difficult issues" addressed at the meeting.

"We discussed the retaliation following sexual-harassment charges," Nathan said. "Often a victim suffers as much or more after the (perpetrator) is identified. It's tough for anyone to deal with the subtle retaliation following sexual-

harassment charges."

The UI is also concentrating on improving hiring practices and increasing diversity within the UI student body, Nathan said.

"We're thinking through issues at Opportunity at Iowa and whether we are best-addressing diversity issues," he said.

Of the 102 new faculty recruits in 1994-95, 33 were women and 17 were minorities, and the UI hires men for faculty positions at least twice as frequently as women, the council's report said.

Ann Rhodes, vice president for University Relations, said the council and UI administrators will continue to work together.

"We hope to meet a little more often in the future," she said. "Maybe even prior to the report cards."

