

Provost's Advisory Committee on Women's Concerns (PACWC)

Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2022

Hybrid Meeting – 817 CL

Noon – 1 pm

Attendees: COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Stefania Albanesi (Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, Economics)
- Eva Ashbaugh (Graduate and Professional Student Government)
- Julie Bannister (Business Hospitality and Auxiliary Services)
- Sofia Bednez (University of Pittsburgh at Bradford and Titusville)
- April Belback (Office of the Provost)
- Jennifer Brach (School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences)
- Aditi Guruprasad (Graduate and Professional Student Government)
- Reagan Koury (UPG Student)
- Paula Clemens (School of Medicine, Neurology)
- Corrine Kliment (School of Medicine, Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine)
- Victoria Lancaster (Business and Operations)
- Sera Matthew (University Center for Teaching & Learning)
- Lipika Mazumdar (UPG, Anthropology)
- Rebecca Roadman (Business and Operations)
- Laurel Roberts (Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, Biological Sciences)
- Lucy Russell (Office of the Provost)
- Monique Smith (Office of the Provost)

Welcome and Introductions

Lucy thanked the committee for joining the meeting. The meeting began with committee introductions.

Provost Ann Cudd's Charge to the Committee

The provost reviewed PACWC's history and its bylaws, mission, and focus. She said that the committee needs to take up issues on campus and in the world as they affect the campus. She listed issues that are high priority:

1. **Sexual assault** is a big topic of concern by our women students and in the Pittsburgh area. There was a rally a few weeks ago and a town hall last night. She recommended that PACWC review these issues to consider how PACWC can assist with suggestions on what can be done. She mentioned that students have mentioned a lack of allies and proactive bystanders and asked how we can change our culture.
2. What are the **reproductive health** effects now and into the future for women in PA that may affect women on campus?
3. She invited PACWC to take up the ongoing issue of **childcare** again.
4. She mentioned the **Year of Emotional Well-Being** on Pitt campuses and asked whether there were enrichment opportunities we would like to engage in as a committee.

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5. She asked the committee to continue to keep the university accountable and to consider issues such as student success, gaps in equitable success, and the way the university spends its resources, especially whether the university spends on minority and women-owned businesses.
6. She indicated that the Office of the Provost can make available data on any other issues that should be addressed.

Provost Cudd ended by thanking the committee members for their willingness to engage with the committee and asked for questions. Laurel commented that it's not clear that the administration knows what it is like to be on this campus, mentioning sexual assault and safety and suggested changing office hours; this should come from the school level. The provost responded that there is an open letter to the administration from a group of students about safety concerns, specifically sexual assault. She will share the letter with Lucy, and Lucy will send it out. Corrine mentioned allyship training for everyone, which would help with changing the culture and climate. Eva mentioned that students, especially grad students, are not aware that we have many resources here.

Minutes Approval from April 19, 2022

Lucy asked for a motion from committee members to approve the meeting minutes of April 19, 2022. The motion was made, seconded, and approved.

PACWC – 40th Anniversary – March 2023

Lucy raised the idea of a celebration of PACWC's 40th anniversary in March and asked for ideas. She wondered about combining this with the event to honor newly promoted women faculty. The following ideas were expressed: take a historical perspective (Laurel, Paula); career networking and career development; structure it like an event day with panels, mentoring sessions, and breakouts (Corrine); have something on the regional campuses (Lipika). Victoria said that there was a retrospective created for the 20th anniversary, Monique suggested reaching out to Jumoke Davis, and Laurel suggested having a zoom room for people unable to attend in person. Corrine, Julie, and April volunteered to form a subcommittee to plan the celebration.

Website

Lucy raised the issue of the PACWC website (specifically the Spotlight on Women Leaders) and asked for volunteers to review it. Victoria and Laurel volunteered.

Year of Emotional Well Being

Lucy indicated that this is the Year of Emotional Well-being and asked for ideas about how PACWC can participate. 12/1 and 2/1 are the application deadlines for funding. April is on the YEOW steering committee. Julie asked whether this could help with the March event. We could focus on the well-being of our staff, faculty, and students, especially post-pandemic. Laurel suggested tying the event in with the provost's charge, and Corrine indicated we could have a speaker who focuses on women's well-being.

Other topics

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Rebecca pointed out that a Pitt student-led menstrual equity program won a [national sustainability award](#).

Stefania raised concerns about the discussion of sexual assault and recommended that we think about ways to get male faculty and administrators involved in a substantial way. How can we make any of the programs related to well-being to emphasize that it is a problem for everyone?

Lucy mentioned the Dobbs Supreme Court decision and stated that it is not clear how it will affect us in PA, and Laurel suggested revisiting this issue after the midterm elections.

The meet was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Lucy thanked the committee and stated that she is looking forward to seeing everyone next Tuesday at the Welcome New Women Faculty event.