



**COUNCIL ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN**
NC STATE UNIVERSITY

2006-07 ANNUAL REPORT

Overview

The NC State University Council on the Status of Women is advisory to the Provost. This year, the Council continued with reorganization to be more responsive to the needs of women on campus. In addition, the Council hosted the Sisterhood Dinner and the Women's Professional Development Conference. The Council co-hosted a few brown bags and evening activities with the Association for Women Faculty and the Women's Center.

1. Membership

The Council is constituted and representative of all professional levels of the University (please refer to **Attachment I** for 2006-07 membership).

2. Connecting Campus Women

In conjunction with the Women's Center and the Association of Women Faculty, a series of brown bag lunches were held. Topics included networking, work-life balance, and professional advancement. Further suggestions for cross campus communication arose. For example, Saturday activities for employees with children, monthly evening socials, tenure preparation, and career mentorship were held. The brown bag lunches and monthly evening activities will continue in 2007-08.

Annually the *Council on the Status of Women* has organized two campus-wide events: the *Sisterhood Dinner* and the *Women's Professional Development Conference*. Both events were held in the spring. In both instances, prior attendances were exceeded and feedback from attendees was very positive. **Attachments II and III** provides program schedules for each activity. In both instances, Provost Larry Nielsen was in attendance to make opening comments and acknowledge the work of the Council.

Sisterhood Dinner

The event was held on February 28, 2007 at the Jane S. McKimmon Center. There were about 250 students, faculty, and staff in attendance total, including the speaker and committee members. The attendance of the dinner broke records from the years before. Dr. Sue Rosser, dean of Georgia Tech's Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, was our keynote speaker. Funding to host Dr. Rosser's visit was co-sponsored by CHASS.

Women's Professional Development Conference

The Council on the Status of Women Professional Development Conference was held on June 8, 2007 at the Jane S. McKimmon Center. There were about 240 people in attendance total, including speakers, invited guests, and committee members. In addition to the participants from



NC State, there were more than 30 guests from outside the NCSU campus. The theme of the conference was “Reach, Rise and Fly” tied into the workshop topic titles. Noted keynote and motivational speaker Alexandria Ferguson gave her address entitled “From Fire to Explosion: Are You Ready For Change”.

3. Assistant Vice Provost for Faculty and Staff Diversity

The Council would like to acknowledge the work of Dr. Marcia Gumpertz. She sits as an ex-officio member and the Council appreciates her assistance as well as access to Dr. Jose Picart, Vice Provost for Diversity and African American Affairs. Several recommendations and/or request for information have been shared and/or acted upon for the Council.

4. Recommendations

Lactation Stations

The Council continues to express its support of designating Lactation Rooms for nursing mothers at NC State University. We feel that a strategic assignment of lactation rooms in university facilities, and the marketing of these rooms will improve our campus climate and will not be costly to implement.

GLBT Center

The Council wishes to express their support for the resolution establishing the GLBT Center in Talley Student Center. We support allocation of resources in way of monies, space and personnel.

Event Planning

The Council understands the need to celebrate the many accomplishments of campus women as well as to provide professional development opportunities. To be more effective, the Council hired a conference consultant (2003-04, 2005-06 and 2006-07) to organize the women’s conference. This person also assisted with the Sisterhood Dinner event in 2006-07. Though the Council wants to remain active in these events, members benefited from the help the consultant.

To adequately stage these events, continued financial support is requested. The Council is grateful for the additional coverage by the Office of Diversity and African American Affairs, but would like to bring to your attention that increase costs is associated with the two Provost’s events yet an increase in budget has not occurred in several years. The Council is a volunteer one, substantial time is devoted by its members to staging successful events, and an increase in budget would assist in maintaining a level of professionalism event participants have grown to expect.



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Future Items

Issues tabled for action in the upcoming year include: EPA Professional vulnerability; facility staff communication needs (providing email accounts and access to computer labs). This then brings up a larger communication issue, how does the university use the communication infrastructure to keep all campus up to date? The model UNC-Chapel Hill presents requires further investigation, i.e., an informational list serve to all staff and students. Staff mentoring will be discussed and recommendations brought forth. The Council also looks forward to the staff well being survey administration and results.

Conclusion

The Council continues to advocate for all women on campus. Events sponsored and co-sponsored by the Council have fostered a sense of community among women and their friends. Members are convinced that the Council's existence is an important part of advocacy for campus women's concerns. Our Council and our community of women are grateful for the support of the Provost and the Chancellor in the past and for the future.

Attachments include—

- I. 2006-07 membership list
- II. Sisterhood Dinner Program
- III. Women's Professional Development Conference Program