

Rhode Island Women in Higher Education Strategic Planning Meeting
Wednesday, February 2, 2009
Big Sisters Rhode Island, Cranston RI

Member in attendance: Annette Cerilli of Bryant University; Jennifer Chasse of Bryant University; Lorna Hunter of Bryant University; Anice O'Connor of Johnson and Wales University; Ellie O'Neil of Rhode Island College; Clancie Wilson of Roger Williams University. Not in attendance, but input and award suggestions were contributed by Karen Arnold Schultz of New England Institute for Technology.

The meeting began at 8:55 am with a RIWHE mission review.

The first item on the agenda was leadership planning. There is an immediate need to identify a new state co-coordinator and identify and/or reaffirm institutional representatives. We reviewed the roles of the state coordinator, and institutional representatives and concluded the following:

- Dr. Anice O' Connor will replace Angela Renault as the Johnson and Wales Representative.
- Lorna Hunter agreed to continue to act as the Bryant University institutional representative.
- Dr. Nancy Carriuolo will serve as the representative of Rhode Island College, and Ellie O' Neill also of RIC will assist her.
- Karen Arnold Schultz will represent New England Institute for Technology.
- Dr. Clancie Wilson will speak with Marie DiBiasio at Roger Williams and may assist, or replace her.
- Annette Cerilli will continue in her role as Treasurer.

We have a need for affirmed or new representation from URI, Brown, CCRI, Salve and RISD. Several individuals from each school were invited to this meeting without success. The most recent institutional representative listing is from 2003 and many of the individuals are no longer in the position. Dr. O'Conner offered to contact Martha Rose and/or Tracey Warrington of Salve Regina. Lorna Hunter suggested Cynthia Bonn or Andrea Hopkins of URI, which Jennifer Chasse will follow up with. Hunter also suggested Chasse contact new Bryant employee Liz O'Neil who previously worked at RISD for RISD suggestions.

Annual conference

The annual conference will take place on Friday, April 17, 2009 from noon to 4 pm at Salve Regina. The group decided to attempt to offer four 45 minute workshops, concurrently running 2 at a time. Participants will choose 2 of the 4 to attend, and participate in a meeting portion, awards recognitions, and luncheon. The tradition of identifying those promoted within the past year will continue.

Chasse gave a brief overview of past evaluations which called for skill building type programming including: public speaking, negotiation skills, tooting your own horn, dealing with difficult people, gathering support and resources for special initiatives, career planning, and technology training.

Dr. O'Connor offered to present on the topic of creative thinking which was approved by the group. Linda Lulli of Bryant had previously expressed interest to Chasse in presenting a workshop, and may forward a proposal. Karen Arnold Schultz offered to try and identify a speaker from NEIT to cover a technology themed workshop. The group was encouraged to try and identify others speakers and invite them to submit a brief proposal within the month. Additionally Chasse will send an email call for proposals.

Award Nominations

There was a discussion about past awards given at RIWHE annual conferences, which have varied. They have included an *Award for Outstanding Leadership*, a *Women Making a Difference in Philanthropy* award, and *Honorary Memberships*. The 2008 annual conferences included only one award- Outstanding Leadership which was awarded to Kati Machtley, the Woman's summit Director at Bryant University and the group decided to mimic this.

A unanimous decision was made to present Dr. Nancy Carriuolo the Outstanding Leadership award in recognition of her contributions and including past work for RIWHE, the Office of Higher Education, and her new position as the President of Rhode Island College.

Additionally the group decided to recognize Dr. Beverly Swan in appreciation of her numerous contributions at URI, and Sister Therese Antone of Salve Regina in recognition of her many contributions to Salve Regina. Dr. Swan and Sister Therese are to be invited to the 4/17 event and presented with flowers and achievement plaques.

Dr. Wilson suggested we offer an early registration price incentive and it was agreed to offer the conference for \$25 for registrations prior to April 1, and \$30 April 1 and beyond. Seating is limited to 100 participants due to space restrictions.

RIWHE Treasurer Annette Cerilli gave a financial report. There is currently is \$7017.00 in our account. Our treasury account does not allow us to process credit cards; as a result Ellie O'Neil will see if it's possible to process credit card registrations through a RIC fund.

Mary Capobianco, Executive Director of Big Sisters gave a brief overview of the mission, current projects and needs of Big Sisters Rhode Island. Afterwards the group decided to research further ways the two organizations might consider collaboration. Ellie O'Neill offered to contact Deb Suggs and/or Liz Garofalo, who last year took over the RIWHE mentoring program to learn the current status. It was suggested there may be a way for RIWHE to filter its mentoring intentions through Big Sisters. Lorna Hunter suggested we consider offering presentations to high school students on the college application process and/or the evaluation of financial aid packages as she sees a need for this type of education. She offered to be part of some type of admissions presentation, possibly in conjunction with Big Sisters and felt she could gather additional qualified volunteers from Bryant. Related programs currently in existence at Bryant include "Future Focus" and "Ace your Education" and may be of interest to this

population. Hunter suggested other schools may have similar programs which would be of interest to Capobianco who is seeking programming as well as mentors. Dr. O'Connor will research if Johnson and Wales has a current relationship with Big Sisters. Johnson and Wales has a mentoring program in place, as well as a leadership program she developed. All participants felt exploring this new partnership might breathe life into the topic of mentoring within RIWHE. Although much effort has been made in working with state foster children now attending college, RIWHE has been largely unsuccessfully to garner state support and have successful mentor relationships. Annette Cerilli, who currently sits as Big Sisters Board of Directors President, agreed the union might be mutually beneficial and suggested whoever is in charge of the mentoring program (Suggs/Garofalo) meet with Capobianco as a next step.

The last topic of discussion was the RIWHE website (www.riwhe.org), which is in constant need for fresh content. Attendees are encouraged to help identify stories, special projects, promotions, articles, papers. Ellie O'Neil recently made contributions to the website announcing the presidency of Dr. Carriuolo at RIC. Karen Arnold offered to try and find appropriate NEIT news to add to the site.

The meeting concluded at 10:35 am.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Chasse, RIWHE President on 2/4/09.