

RIWHE Business Meeting Minutes April 22, 2005, Salve Regina University

Opening of Meeting

Nancy Carriuolo opened the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

On a motion duly seconded and approved by Winnie Brownell and Pat Thomas, the meeting minutes from the April 30, 2004, meeting were approved.

Nancy recognized Cathy Hanrahan from Rhode Island College, who manages RIWHE's financial affairs, for her continued support and commitment to RIWHE. Cathy is a member of RIWHE and provides this function as a volunteer.

Announcements regarding annual meeting costs and listserv

Nancy Carriuolo announced that the registration fee for the annual meeting will increase from \$10 to \$20 in 2006 to help defray meal costs. Nancy also announced that the RIWHE listserv messages will be sent to all members. She stated that very few messages are sent out on the listserv, so members should not be overwhelmed with information. However, if a member prefers to not receive messages from the listserv, please contact Deanna Velletri.

RIWHE / RIAWE merger

Nancy Carriuolo announced that the women of RIWHE were considering a merger with the women of the Rhode Island Association for Women in Education (RIAWE). Nancy commented that the two organizations have similar mission statements, goals, and membership benefits. Nancy introduced Annette Cerilli from RIAWE who discussed some of the benefits of such a merger.

Some of the benefits for RIWHE members include the following items: 1) an additional 150 members, 2) three fun (small) networking meetings throughout the year (similar to brown bag lunch events), and 3) five energetic young women leaders from the independent institutions who form the steering committee of RIAWE. 4) a membership that includes many women who are less senior than the core membership of RIWHE.

Some of the benefits for RIAWE members include: 1) access to RIWHE's more 'seasoned' membership for participation in their activities, 2) access to our Web site and to our list serv, and 3) a large annual RIWHE meeting held in the spring. 4) access to a large six-state regional meeting

Nancy Carriuolo stated that RIAWE would adopt the name RIWHE, as required by ACE, but would maintain its own account to pay for its small, frequent professional development activities. RIAWE's executive board had mentioned providing from their funds some support for the annual meeting, perhaps in the amount of \$500. The annual spring meeting and the smaller meetings will continue to require a small registration fee, but there will be no separate membership fee for the foreseeable future. Registration at the spring RIWHE conference includes organization membership. There was a question about RIWHE's governance structure if the merger is approved. Nancy stated that the five members of the RIAWE executive board would join the RIWHE executive board and combine efforts. RIWHE board members (with help from the RIAWE members) would continue to plan the annual spring meeting, and the executive board members from RIAWE would plan the smaller networking meetings. Nancy used the names of the two separate organizations in the discussion, but reiterated that the name of the merged organization would be Rhode Island Women in Higher Education because of the connection to the American Council on Education (ACE).

On a motion duly seconded and approved by Pat Thomas and M. Beverly Swan, the merger of RIWHE and RIAWE was approved.

Membership emeritus status

Nancy Carriuolo asked the group how they felt about adding emeritus status membership for women who are no longer working in higher education but who are still very active and who might enjoy attending RIWHE meetings. She further stated that these members would be invited to attend RIWHE meetings at no charge. Nancy gave Lee DeLucia, former VP at RIC, as an example of one of the female leaders who were active in RIWHE and still have much to contribute as an emeritus member. Nomination of emeritus membership will be taken from the membership and voted upon by the executive committee.

On a motion duly seconded and approved by Judith Brisette and Elizabeth Hart, the emeritus status membership was approved.

Discussion from the floor

Peg Brown asked if the financial request for institutional support of RIWHE activities would be an annual request and if so, how would this affect the RIWHE / RIAWE merger? Nancy Carriuolo stated that the initial letter of request for financial support to the institutions did not mention that the \$500 contribution would be annual. She mentioned that it was hard work for her to secure the funds from some institutions, and she would prefer not to be personally responsible as coordinator for undertaking this fund raising activity again. She stated that the events are generally low cost and that the organization should be fine with the current treasury amount.

On a motion duly seconded and approved by Elizabeth Hart and Winnie Brownell, the business meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.