

Gender Equity Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2012

14th Floor, NE Conference Room
100 W. Randolph, Chicago, IL 60602

Welcome & Introductions

Chair, Sandy Westlund-Deenihan called the meeting together at 10 a.m.

Members present (* denotes electronic attendance): Diane Albert*, Wendy Howerter*, Julia Ann Oglesby, Wanda Andrews, Penny Lauritzen, Sandy Westlund-Deenihan, Ruth Sweetser, Paul Nijensohn, Deborah Hopper.

Guests: Michael Cermak.

A quorum of members is established.

Approval of the Minutes-Diane Albert made a motion to approve the February 10, 2012 minutes. Ruth Sweetser seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ISBE Update-Deborah Hopper reported on the following:

ISBE recently announced a new organizational chart. The Career and Technical Education Division is now a part of the new College and Career Readiness (CCR) Division. The division includes has an expanded focus which blends CTE and academics. The organization chart is located on the ISBE website.

The CCR Division has 3 projects funded through the Race to the Top (RTT) funding. Eight (8) STEM Learning Exchanges are being announced today. The additional projects include a resource center and a college and career readiness project.

Illinois continues to be a member of the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE). The NAPE Professional Development Institute is April 15-18, 2013 in Arlington, VA. Debbie also shared an announcement from the NAPE education foundation regarding a National Science Foundation STEM Pipeline 2.0 grant. Debbie also noted NAPE is a valuable resource on the updates and status of the reauthorization process for Perkins-CTE legislation.

Members were encouraged to review the Blueprint for Transformation of CTE available on the Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education website.

Debbie welcomed Michael Cermak, project director for the CTE Special Populations Leadership Project. He reviewed the following project activities: Pre-service teacher workshop featuring brown eyes/blue eyes simulation, special populations information, micro-messages and a discussion panel; plans for research based hand-on activities; upcoming presentations; as well as encouraged members to friend the project on Facebook® to keep up-to-date on activities and information.

Discussion of the report included the encouragement for bringing equity awareness to the RTT projects. Ruth Sweetser and Penny Lauritzen encouraged all

members to log activities and projects on the National Girls Collaborative Project website.

Partner Updates and Initiatives

Sandy Westlund-Deenihan reported successes of the Motorola Solutions Innovations Grant she is working with at U-46, in Elgin. An astounding number of national networks picked up the program release of stat supporting positive results engaging students in science, technology, engineering, and Math. A session on micro-messaging is scheduled for October 22, 2012. Sandy continues to work with the district and will keep the GEAC informed about the project. Sandy continues to serve on the NAPE Education Foundation Board and share value in attending the professional development institute.

Penny Lauritzen reported due to anticipated increase in attendance, the Women Changing the Face of Agriculture event will be held March 8, 2013 at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. This will allow up to 700 students to participate. The group has increased their focus with the Girl scouts® and 4-H. Penny shared the tentative agenda, keynote speaker and collaborations in progress to bring career awareness in Agriculture to attendees.

Paul Nijhensohn reported the special education annual conference of best practices is in November.

Ruth Sweetser reported the AAUW is the largest association for women and continues to support the “Dare to Dream” conference for young Latina girls. Plans for the 5th conference are underway.

Old Business

Julia, Sandy and Michael of the Data Workgroup reported more data was needed as the method of collection has changed, including the update of Classification of Instructional Programs (CIPs). The workgroup would like to continue to work to analyze data to find developing trends; gather more data on students with disabilities; cluster consolidation; and connect post-secondary transition. The workgroup anticipates recommending a tool be developed to help understand the data. The workgroup requested to continue exploring the data and will convene via a conference call.

New Business

Sandy reported as the Chairperson of the GEAC, she submitted a letter in writing to the Executive Director of the Executive Ethics Commission to inform them of the nomination of Marcilene Dutton, ISBE General Counsel to serve as the Ethics Officer for the GEAC.

Sandy shared that all members need to return their Acknowledgement for Participation in Ethics Training form to Debbie Hopper. This information was sent to members electronically and is to be completed annually. It is anticipated that all members will also need to submit a copy of their Open Meetings Act training certificate as a member of the GEAC annually as well.

Debbie Hopper thanked members for their input and service to the GEAC for the past two years. She shared a form for members to fill out inquiring about their desire to continue serving the committee, as well as suggestions for new member appointment and return it to her in the next couple weeks.

As a legislatively driven committee, we have been asked by ISBE to establish meeting dates. After brief discussion, it was moved by Paul Nijensohn to establish the 2nd Friday of February and the 2nd Friday of September as regular meeting dates of the GEAC. Motion was seconded by Wanda Andrews. Motion carried. Further discussion included the encouragement for members to attend in person as possible, however to continue providing the option of electronic attendance. The next meeting date will be February 8, 2012 at the ISBE office in Springfield.

Next Steps

Ruth Sweetser volunteered to draft a letter to address the committees concluding discussion regarding the need to increase the focus on equitable access in the Pathways/RTT projects. Penny Lauritzen volunteered to assist. The letter will be shared with the committee with the anticipation of delivery to Superintendent Koch, via Chairperson Sandy Westlund-Deenihan.

The Data workgroup will continue to gain understanding of the CTE data with regards to the GEAC mission via conference call and report back.

Adjournment

Ruth Sweetser moved to adjourn the meeting. Julia Ann Oglesby seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Hopper