

Gender Equity Advisory Committee Minutes

February 8, 2013

10:00 a.m.

4th Floor Webinar Room

100 N. 1st Street, Springfield, IL 62777

Attendance: Penny Lauritzen, Wendy Howerter, Julia Oglesby , Debbie Hopper, Sandy Westlund-Deenihan*, Paul Nijensohn*, Diane Albert (*electronic attendance) and guest Michael Cermak.

Chair Deenihan reviewed the legislation which guides the committee. The GEAC standard meeting times are the 2nd Friday in February and September. Members were also reminded of Code of Ethics and Open Meetings Act training requirements.

Election of Chair and Secretary

Penny Lauritzen nominated Sandy Westlund-Deenihan as chair, Wendy Howerter seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Debbie Hopper nominated Penny Lauritzen as secretary of the 2013-2014, Paul Nijensohn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Wendy motioned to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2012 as submitted. Dian Albert seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ISBE Update

Debbie Hopper announced Dora Welker is the new Division Administrator of College and Career Readiness. The Perkins legislation is anticipated to be reauthorized. Federal sequestration to reduce federal discretionary funds has been postponed. It is anticipated to hear something in March. The State maintenance of effort funds required by Perkins legislation is anticipated to be level funded. ISBE, CCR division has three RTT/STEM Initiatives. These initiatives are a partner project with the Illinois Community College Board, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunities, Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and the Illinois Department of Employment Security. Additional information regarding the projects is available on the ISBE website. The STEM LE projects are using Illinois developed Program of Study templates, which includes an equity component in the process. Illinois continues to be a member state of the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE). Their Professional Development Institute is April 15-18 in Arlington, VA. The theme is Igniting Innovation: Access, Equity, and Diversity. NAPE also recently released the Nontraditional Crosswalk 2010. It is anticipated that many states will update and use this information to report their non-traditional numbers to OVAE. Anticipate Illinois to update and post information on the ISBE Perkins page. NAPE continues to expand STEM projects and Illinois district U-46 continues to be highlighted on their website. The Connections Conference

will be March 13-14 at Pheasant Run resort. Thurman Bridges will be one of the featured speakers addressing strategies to support nontraditional programs, equity, and diversity in CTE classrooms. Debbie introduced Michael Cermak, project director of the CTE Special Populations Leadership Project, who provided an overview of the CTE data. He shared changes in data collection process, dramatic changes and some interesting findings per his data review. In terms of nontraditional participation and completion, the most dramatic changes were in Students with Limited English Proficiency, Students with Disabilities, and Economically Disadvantaged Students. Trend is showing increased growth of females participating in CTE as well as completion. It is anticipated to have stabilization of numbers as we continue to collect and analyze data. The project also hosted a training for education for employment directors, developed vignettes and resources to be posted on the project website (<http://www.illinoiscte.org>) as well as conducted a variety of presentations across the state for Perkins related administrators and teachers.

Partner Updates and Initiatives

Illinois Agri-Women(IAW)-Penny Lauritzen provided an update on the Women Changing the Face of Agriculture: Your key to the Future conference scheduled for March 8, 2013 at Southern Illinois University. Over 400 participants have already registered. The program developed reflects input from prior attendees and includes a wide variety of agriculture related companies and more diversity in featured ag careers. The IAW Duct Tape® and Fencing Challenge contest was a great success and will be receiving their award at the conference, along with a showing of a event video. Penny also shared a local school initiative around “Hollowing out the Middle: The Rural Brain Drain and What it Means for America”. Community group is in the process of coming up with some ideas to support new ideas supporting maintaining rural Illinois communities.

Education for Employment System Director Leadership-Dian Albert, director of the OKAW Education for Employment system shared several strategies used throughout the state to support the Perkins core indicators, particularly nontraditional participation and completion. The System Directors Leadership Council (SDLC) meetings and newsletters have featured a core indicator of focus each month. A sample of the newsletter was shared with attendees to show the communication with SDLC members across the state. It includes information on the Perkins performance measures, best practices, and initiatives taking place around the state. Nontraditional core indicators were featured one month. Information shared included special populations strategies/events, support materials, and a variety of resources to support nontraditional programs/initiatives. She also highlighted regional efforts taking place across the state collaborating to address the requirements of the Perkins legislation regarding nontraditional participation and completion. These activities noted collaboration and education to counselors, teachers, students, parents, business and industry professionals. Illinois Assoc. of Vocational Education Special Needs Personnel (ILAVESNP)-Julia Oglesby shared the organization is struggling, yet continuing to try to serve students as much as possible. An ILAVESNP sponsored scholarship application form was shared. Julia also shared the upcoming 83rd annual IACTE conference: A Forum of Best Practice on February 21-22, 2013 in Normal. A variety of session will be available to attendees, including presentations on best practices to serve students with special needs. Julia also shared a couple resources on gender equity in

education, including a document from the United Nations, which includes Goal #3 Promote gender equity and empower women.

Old Business

Data Workgroup-Sandy reported the data workgroup will meet after the new CTE report card is available and report back to the committee.

Equity Best Practices for STEM careers-Debbie reported on behalf of Ruth Sweetser, that after research she suggests the committee takes a look at the executive summary and recommendations from the American Association of University Women brochure "Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics" to be shared with an accompanied letter to the Superintendent as a model to infuse equity into the Race to the Top projects. After discussion, a letter will be drafted by the chair for review by the full GEAC.

Next Steps

A special meeting to review and finalize the Equity Best Practices for STEM Careers GEAC advisory letter to Supt. Koch was tentatively set for February 25 at 2:30 p.m. This meeting will be webinar format. Information will be sent to members and posted on the GEAC website.

A request will be sent to ISBE for the FY12 CTE report and once received; the data workgroup will establish a review date.

Next Meeting

Monday, February 25, 2013, Springfield Webinar Room(Special Meeting)

Friday, September 13, 2013 in Chicago

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.