

Special Meeting of the Gender Equity Advisory Committee Minutes  
Monday, February 25, 2013  
2:30 p.m.  
4th Floor Webinar Room  
100 N. 1st Street, Springfield, IL 62777

Chair, Sandy Westlund-Deenihan called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Sandy Westlund-Deenihan, Wanda Andrews, Dian Albert, Ruth Sweetser, Julia Oglesby, Debbie Hopper, Penny Lauritzen, Wendy Howerter, and guest Michael Cermak

Discussion was held regarding appropriate advice to awareness of Gender Equity in STEM among members.

Sweetser recapped her mission to deliver a recap/list of essential best practices for STEM educators. She found through all her work, the *Why So Few? Women in Stem* Executive Summary and Recommendation to best provide the information.

Penny Lauritzen shared a letter developed as a cover for the announcement of the Women Changing the Face of Agriculture.

Dian Albert noted the letter was excellent, appreciated the sharing of the letter and encouraged the use of some of the information be used in the development of the GEAC advice letter to accompany the *Why So Few* pamphlet.

Julia agreed

Sandy Westlund-Deenihan asked for clarification of our objective to create a higher level of positive visibility among the audience on access to equity with a quest for ISBE to increase the awareness of equity in STEM, through encouraging the utilization of the strategies and recommendations. Attendees concurred.

Debbie Hopper recapped that the document pamphlet includes strategies and recommendation to meet the objective with regards to STEM careers.

Dian Albert asked if such a document is available for best practice strategies for both genders in nontraditional careers.

Ruth Sweetser and Debbie Hopper both noted they were not aware of a document like the one presented and that the presented document addresses the charge in relation to STEM careers.

Consensus of the attending group was for Penny Lauritzen and Sandy Westlund-Deenihan to develop a letter to accompany the *Why So Few?* Pamphlet which would encourage ISBE to share the information with the developing STEM learning exchanges as well as an available resource for CTE leaders, as well as keep current process' in place which are demonstrating the awareness of nontraditional programs and gender equity.

Develop an Action Plan with a Timeline

Discussion developed a timeline for the letter to be developed and then have another special GEAC meeting for complete GEAC approval. Special meeting set for March 15<sup>th</sup> at 11 am in webinar format, host site Springfield.

Chair Sandy Westlund-Deenihan encouraged attendees to review the pamphlet and send their comments to be included in the draft within the next week. She then thanked everyone for their time and input.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

