

**Madison Caucus for Gender Equality
Business Meeting minutes
Great Room, Leeolou Alumni Center
April 8, 2015**

Update on Dominion Lecture

The top two choices are Tammy Duckworth and Caroline Heldman.

Facts about Tammy Duckworth

- U.S. Representative for Illinois' 8th congressional district
- First Asian American woman elected to Congress in Illinois
- Iraq war veteran, first female double amputee from the war
- First disabled woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives
- Born in Thailand
- Gave birth to her first child, a daughter, in Nov. 2014

Facts about Caroline Heldman

- One of the creators of Faculty Against Rape. FAR is an organization is dedicated to getting more faculty involved in sexual assault issues on campus, and to protecting faculty members who experience retaliation for doing so.
- Associate Professor of Politics, Occidental College in Los Angeles, CA
- Specializes in the presidency, media, gender and race in the American context
- Has made over 500 media appearances as a political and social commentator, including appearances on the Katie Couric Show and the Rosie (O'Donnell) Show
- Worked on the documentary film projects *The Mask You Live In*, *Miss Representation*, *Aftermath: New Orleans in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina*, and *Informant*.

Tammy Duckworth is unavailable in September so we are now waiting to hear back about Caroline Heldman's availability.

Members discussed reserving a larger room this year. They also discussed applying to register the lecture as a passport event to encourage student attendance, and asking faculty to encourage their students to attend.

Recipients of the Professional Development Fund

Congratulations to Jenny Toth and Emily Westkaemper!

Jenny will use her award to attend the Association of Title IX Administrators Civil Rights Investigator Training & Certification Course at Case Western Reserve University on July 27-28, 2015.

Emily will use her award to support the indexing of her manuscript, *Martha Washington Shopped Here: Women's History in Popular Culture, 1910-1976*.

Read more about the recipients and their awards [here](#).

Steering Committee Members

Caucus members thanked steering committee members Kathy Clarke and Ed Brantmeier for their service as they move on to new things in the 2015-16 year.

An election was held for the two vacant seats on the steering committee. Congratulations to Jackie Rufo and Tim Ball!

Open Forum on Membership Building and 2015-16 MCGE Goals

Caucus members discussed the upcoming year and potential ways to build membership. Ideas included:

- Keep the focus of the Caucus clear—daycare center, gender climate, etc.
- Partner with the LGBTQ Faculty & Staff Group.
- Have one additional social each semester to give members an opportunity to build relationships.
- Have a social/informational event about daycare. Encourage members to bring their children. Invite someone from upper administration (possibly Charlie King) to report on the current status of the proposed JMU daycare center. Let them know it's a priority for us. Invite all members of the JMU community to raise awareness about the Caucus and the daycare center initiative.
- Look into payroll deduction as an option for paying membership dues. Checks are becoming an outdated form of payment.
- Reserve a table at the Community Service Fair held during Employee Appreciation Day.
- Advertise at New Faculty Orientation.
- Create publicity materials to hand out at events—posters, stickers, Tell Us Your Story cards.
- Continue sending out a bulk email in late July/early August encouraging faculty and staff to join or renew their membership.
- Advertise Professional Development Fund recipients on JMU's SHOUT OUT and Latest Faculty Accomplishments webpages.
- Possibly change the name of our organization.
- AJ regularly attends the Diversity Council meetings organized by the Office of Access and Inclusion. Feel free to share information with her about upcoming events and goals, and she will share that information with the group.

Upcoming Events

End-of-Year Social

Thurs., April 30, 2015

5:00-7:00pm

Stephanie Baller's House (705 Hickory Hill Drive, Harrisonburg)