**MEETING MINUTES**

**BU Women’s Colloquium**

**January 28, 2015**

**Present:** Kara Poe Alexander, Beth Allison Barr, Eileen Bentsen, Brooke Blevins, Heidi Bostic, Candi Cann, Natalie Carnes, Robyn Driskell, Ellen Filgo, Katie Jarvis, Kim Kellison, Karon LeCompte, Kristen Pond, Laine Scales, Lakia Scott, Andrea Turpin, Colleen Zori.

**Gender Studies Program Discussion**

* Our group engaged in a lengthy email discussion last November about the status of the gender studies minor/program at Baylor University. Per that conversation, Robyn Driskell and others began to think carefully about how to reinvigorate the program.
* Robyn joined us to share her proposal (see attached handout for details about the proposal). I have highlighted several key areas below.
	+ Director
		- Appoint a director of Gender studies from the College of Arts and Sciences. Only the first director needs to come from A&S because this is currently where the minor is conferred from.
		- Robyn will work with the College to make this a formal appointment that will be part of this person’s contact
		- Robyn will solicit nominations from chairs and faculty members over the next few weeks. Please feel free to nominate or self nominate by sending an email to Robyn.
		- Robyn will bring the slate of nominees to our next Colloquium meeting—this will not be a time for discussion, rather a time of information.
		- Director would have a one course release (per year) like other directors in the College.
	+ Approval of new courses
		- The currently list of courses on the gender studies minor is fairly limited.
		- Beth Allison Barr has worked diligently to compile a list of other courses that might be added to the minor
		- Robyn and the new Gender Studies director will work together to help get new courses approved with the A&S curriculum committee
	+ Major and Graduate Program
		- Eventually the idea would be to move towards a major in Gender studies and even a graduate certificate in this area
		- In the far distant future, perhaps even establish a department of Gender Studies.
* Next Steps: Look for an email from Robyn Driskell calling for nominations for the director of gender studies. The idea is to have this person appointed by April 1 so their new title and responsibilities would be included in their new contract.

**Mentoring**

* We need someone to head up the idea we began brainstorming last semester to have graduate student mentorship program
* We discussed having 2 mentors per 3-4 graduate students
* We suggested it might be nice to have mentors from outside the graduate students’ home department. This is something we need to think about and decide.
* Laine Scales suggested that we could use the graduate school to help communicate this opportunity to potential students.
* In our February meeting we will work on creating a description of what is expected for mentors and discuss who might be interested in helping coordinate this effort

**Other Items**

* We are looking for people who might be interested in helping lead the Colloquium next year. Natalie will be out on a research leave, so we need someone to help with the minimal tasks it takes to coordinate the group. Please let Natalie or Brooke know if you are interested. (Natalie\_carnes@baylor.edu or brooke\_blevins@baylor.edu)
* We are looking for a couple of people who would be interested in sharing their research with the colloquium this semester. Let Natalie know if you are interested.
* Women in the Academy Conference: April 11 (see prior email from Laine Scales with more details)
	+ Eileen Bentsen, Christina Chan, and Ellen Filgo are leading a great session on promoting your academic identity. All are welcome to attend

**Next Meeting:**

* We will hopefully follow up on maternity/paternity leave policy
* Discuss graduate student mentorship
* Date: February 23, 2pm.