**Women's Colloquium Meeting Minutes**

**February 21, 2017**

**Members Present**: Brooke Blevins, Kara Alexander, Kim Kellison, Robyn Driskell, Ivy Hamerly, Meghan DiLuzio, Lisa Shaver, Adrienne Harris, Christina Chan-Park, Theresa Kennedy, Sharon Moore, Leah Teague, Natalie Carnes, Sinda Vanderpool

**Ivy Hamerly- League of Women Voters**

* In these polarized times, a lot of people are looking for ways to become more civically engaged and support our democracy. One option is to join the League of Women Voters. The League of Women Voters of Waco is a group of neighbors working together to become better citizens. We promote civil discourse, voting rights, and voter education.  The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that is nearly 100 years old. It was established in 1919 shortly before the ratification of the 19th Amendment. The goal of the League was to help women participate in politics without favoring one political party over another. The league focuses on educating voters and helping them learn how to influence their representatives. They are most well known for publishing voting guides to help voters learn about the candidates.
* This semester, the Waco chapter is planning a candidate forum in April to help citizens learn more about the Waco City Council District 5 race. We may also be able to plan a discussion of the May 6 referendum to create a countywide venue tax to raise funds to renovate the Extraco Events Center.  In the longer term, we will work on voter registration and voter guides for local races.
* If you are interested in joining the chapter, there are a few things you can do:
	+ Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/LWVWaco/](http://www.facebook.com/LWVWaco/)
	+ Pay dues to The League of Women Voters of Texas for a state membership.  <http://www.lwvtexas.org/local_leagues.html>
	+ Email Ivy Hamerly (ihamerly@gmail.com) to receive email announcements about chapter events.

**Women's and Gender Studies Announcements**

* TED Talk lunch co-sponsored with Multicultural Affairs
* March 21

**Move the Needle Initiative (American Council for Education)--Presented by Leah Teague**

Attached to this email you will find several resources she provided  (see her email from last week for information she shared)

* Higher education is important for economic health of a community
* More women than men are enrolled in higher education, but fewer faculty and senior leadership position are held by women.
* Senior leadership positions tend to still be men (although higher education is better than most industries)
* Other roles that women play on campus--mid level administration
* Continue to see gaps in pay and in access to promotions
* Women have the qualities that people are looking for in leaders--actually stronger than men
* Women in leadership has benefits
* Improves financial performance
* Innovation and creativity
* Improves social responsibility
* People perceived that more women were in leadership roles than was actually the case
* How do we choose to educate others about these realities?
* The public doesn't recognize these issues

**Goals of Move the Needle**

1. Raising Awareness

2. Making business case of diversity (inclusive and engaging diversity)

3. Think about barriers (implicit bias,

4. Change Behavior

**What Institutions Need to Do?**

* Institutions need a culture that recognizes the influence of bias
* Institutions need policies and practices that account for that bias
* Institutions then need accountability and measurement to ensure these policies and practices are happening

**Potential Activities for Women**

* Leadership development for women
* Learning the culture
* Recognize relationships are important
* Speak up for ourselves

**Resources:**

* Here is the link to Moving the Needle Initiative: [ACE’s Moving the Needle: Advancing Women in Higher Education Leadership](http://www.acenet.edu/leadership/programs/Pages/Moving-the-Needle.aspx).
* The dates for the upcoming leadership development programs in Texas:
	+ Texas Women in Higher Education Annual Conference is April 2 – 4, 2017 in San Marcus. See <http://www.twhe.org/>
	+ ACE Regional Women's Leadership Forum in Dallas April 12-14, 2017. See <http://www.acenet.edu/events/Pages/RWLF-TX.aspx#tabContent-1>
* Google backwards bicycle test and implicit association test