**BU Women’s Colloquium**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 22, 2013**

* The meeting opened up with introductions. We had 12 members present
* Susan Bratton (environmental sciences) asked the groups’ permission to continue her work on putting together a work life balance task force as part of the Campus Diversity Committee—the group agreed this was a beneficial idea
  + If you have suggestions about what we should include in the campus work life/balance survey, please contact Susan Bratton.
* Kara Poe Alexander (English) will continue to work with other BU Women’s Colloquium members to craft a letter addressing issues related to the maternity/paternity leave policy. This policy will be sent to Karla Leeper and Human Resources for their feedback and attention. If you are interested in helping craft this letter, please contact Kara.
* Lenore Wright (BIC and ATL) opened the discussion up with several questions to consider:
  + To what degree are teachers responsible for presenting information in a gender-balanced way?
  + Why might professors strive to create gender balance in their courses?
  + What do students gain from reading and discussing content created by men and women?
  + How can professors create a gender-balanced course without compromising core content?
* A lively and robust conversation ensued, including topics listed below
  + How to negotiate teaching difficult/controversial texts at an institution like Baylor
  + The need to help undergrads and graduate students find female mentors
  + The importance of having courses that address issues of gender
* Beth Barr (History) suggested that we create a list of courses currently taught at Baylor that address women, gender issues, diversity, etc. We could then distribute this list to Gender Studies Minors as well as other interested students.
  + Ellen Filgo (Univ. Libraries) has agreed to compile this list. Please email Ellen if you teach or know of courses that address women, gender, diversity, etc.
* The library will hopefully be hosting a colloquium next fall. Tentatively the plan is to focus this colloquium around the 50th Anniversary of Betty Friedan’s *The Feminine Mystique* (1963). More information will be sent out when the topic is decided. We were all invited to consider submitting abstracts for this colloquium when the time comes.