

Chicago Area Women's and Gender Studies
Consortium Meeting
October 21, 2008
5:30-7:00 pm
Northwestern University

NEXT MEETING: December 5, 2008, 4-6 pm. Location to be determined. Make it be both social and planning – brainstorming ideas for the Spring 2009 event, and bring in student feedback to our questions.

Minutes:

Introductions and Updates from individual campuses:

We talked about many events and activities coming up over the next year; new student groups; new directors; and more.

Reflections on 2007-2008 and Planning for 2008-2009:

Internship, Job, and Volunteer Fair:

Reflection: It's a lot of work; participation is okay; mostly about internship and volunteer opportunities, not jobs so some students reporting disappointment and frustration; the workshops that go along with the fair are not well attended.

After some reflection, we weren't sure if we should continue with the fairs, and should explore other possibilities that might draw more students and that would create more space for more dialogue, discussion, and collaboration between students and faculty from the various schools. For instance, UIC Gender and Women's Studies had had a great event in September that included faculty and students talking about scholarship and social change and activism, and drew a good number of folks from around the city and was a great dialogue.

Suggestion: student conference that includes scholarship, activism, as well as workshops for applying to grad school, internships, and other opportunities?

What would be appealing to students?

Action Step: We decided that each of us would ask students in our programs if they would be interested in a student based city-wide conference? What topics, issues, workshops might be of interest? A space to present their own research? A space to meet students from colleges and universities in Chicago with potential of collaborating on future events, activism, etc? a space for students to come together around art, spoken word, performance, zine exchange? A space for learning more about women's and gender studies, possibilities for graduate study and/or jobs, internships, social justice activism? Other ideas?

We were thinking that if there's interest, this might be a CAWGS event that could be organized for February or March 2010, and would include undergraduate and graduate students working with us to create a conference or gathering of some kind.

Last year's Faculty Development – Futures of Women's and Gender Studies event at Hull House

Reflection: People who attended thought it was great to have the opportunity to discuss issues with a group and to have panel lead us off. At the same time, panelists ended up speaking more and room set up in a way that it was hard to have a real dialogue and discussion.

Another Event? There was interest to try to bring together a group of faculty across the city again this year – multiple possibilities – take up some of the issues raised last year, have a syllabi exchange, etc.

Decision: Move forward in trying to organize an event for Spring 2009.

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