

**Executive Summary
for
Dr. Jeanne Arnold**

Please fill in the following in save it in Word format and email it back to Tom Butcher not later than December 19.

Name of Office, University Committee, Standing Organization, etc.:
The Women's Commission

Contact Information (include email) and Web Address (if any):
womencom@gvsu.edu
www.gvsu.edu/w_commission

Regular Meeting Times/Place, if any:
Monthly meetings are held in Kirkhof Center from 1-2pm
Winter meetings for 2008 Jan 10th ----Feb 7th ----March 13th ---- April 3rd

Mission and Purpose:
The mission of the Grand Valley State University Women's Commission, formed in 1996, is to advocate for all women on campus by acting on their issues and by promoting equity and social justice, ever conscious of the intersection of race, class, gender, and orientation.

History (how it was started, by whom, when, significant events, etc.):
1995-96 The Women's Commission was formed to ensure an environment that supports the rights of all women at the University. Establishing the commission fulfilled a recommendation from the Women's Climate Study of 1992-93. The first commission included four representatives from all employment groups. The commission was charged with raising consciousness of women's concerns on campus and examining perceived gender bias in university policies. It also served as a vehicle for communication and discussion of issues and opportunities for women on campus.
The 2003-04 academic year was one of reorganization for the commission. In May 2003, seven women agreed to serve as a core committee to guide the commission while drawing on additional people and resources for events. This was a change from the 15-person commission.

Goals and Accomplishments over Past 2 Years:
The creation of the Fireside Chats was a major accomplishment for the Commission, not only does it support our mission but the GVSU mission as well. Fireside Chats are monthly chats that provide a safe environment for diverse women to talk, learn about each other and learn more about another culture. The Fireside Chats are based on storytelling, but the meetings do have set topics of interest and a group moderator.

Secondly the commission has been helpful in the development of a committee that is looking at the needs of families, when it comes to maternity and paternity related issues.

Pending Projects and Activities (include for Winter semester 2008):

The Commission shall continue to identify issues of concern to women, and partner with allies to coordinate efforts to improve the campus for women, target specific issues to be addressed and monitor their progress, and report to university officials as needed.

Some examples include:

The Annual Awards Ceremony co-sponsored with Positive Black Women, Women and Gender Studies and the Women's Center.

Continued support of the "Her Story" Series.

The Fireside Chats will continue in the winter semester.

List of Current Officers or Staff Members, if an Administrative Office:

Sharalle Arnold

Michele Coffill

Susan Sloop

Sulari White

Linda Yuhas

Suggestions, Ideas, Concerns: