

UNCW
Women in Science
January 23, 2008
Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome

- a. Introductions were carried out, led by Christy Visaggi, and an attendance sheet was passed around. Those present included:
Christy Visaggi, Adriane Michaelis, Tse-Lynn Loh, Jessica Baker (Marine Biology), Stephanie White (Geology), Emily Adams (Pre-Med, Biology/Chemistry), Mary Farmer (Gerontology), Sue Kezios (Public Service), Leah Henderson, Daryn Blanc-Goldhammer (Psychology/Pre-Med), Laurie Patterson (Computer Science)
- b. Attendees included a combination of graduate students, undergraduates, faculty, and alumni active in the field of science.

II. Goals

- a. The potential goals of the organization discussed included:
 - i. Encourage girls early on in their education to engage in the sciences.
 - ii. Promote more STEM majors. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)
 - iii. Provide forum for educational, emotional, and perhaps financial support.
 - iv. Create mentoring opportunities on campus. (faculty/grads/undergrads)
 - v. Additional ideas of involvement were discussed, such as:
 1. Visiting and giving talks at local schools (some visits are already planned.)
 2. Judging at local science fairs (again, this has occurred and other dates are currently planned).
 3. Panel discussions for undergrads relating to careers/pathways in science. It was mentioned that UNCW holds similar panels already—perhaps we can work to enhance awareness of panels?
 4. Hold reading groups for science topics of interest.
 5. Provide a list of potential scholarship/funding sources available to women in science fields.
 6. Holding our own, or working with existing camps targeting young women in science (part of the first goal listed above).
 7. Organize field trips to see science in action. One trip suggested was to the Corning Plant, which is local and a site of fiber optics manufacturing.
 8. Provide a source for undergraduates interested in assisting with graduate student field work (and provide graduate students with wonderful volunteers!)

III. Constitution

- a. Christy, Laurie, and Adriane will meet to work on drafting the constitution and will have it ready for the next meeting.
- b. Topics to be considered and incorporated into the constitution include:
 - i. Name and Affiliations

- ii. Membership: UNCW students, faculty, staff, alumni
- iii. Officers
 - 1. President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Web, PR
- iv. Eligibility Requirements
- v. Elections
- vi. Faculty Advisors: It was mentioned that faculty advisors are not required by UNCW SOLC policies, but a number of faculty members have voiced interest in serving as unofficial advisors to the group.
- c. An extension of the organization's provisional status will be requested to allow time to prepare and review the drafted constitution.

IV. Research Organizations

- a. We can affiliate ourselves with several local and/or national women science organizations. Stephanie volunteered to research the benefits of each for the next meeting.
 - i. Association of Women in Science: www.awis.org
 - ii. American Association of University Women: www.aauw.org
 - 1. Wilmington Chapter www.aauwnc.org/category/nc-branch-news/wilmington
 - iii. Women in Science and Engineering: www.7nationalacademies.org/wise/index.html

V. Mentoring Network

- a. Framework: We may try to set up the option of online message of questions to appropriate faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students, and/or times to meet and discuss questions with mentors.
- b. Those present were able to sign on if interested in becoming a mentor. Profiles of available mentors are to be created in the future so students can view their best fit.
- c. We again brought up panel discussions, and will look into the schedule of panels by the SOLC on campus.

VI. Women's History Month (March)

- a. Any ideas?
 - i. It was suggested to set up a display on campus, possibly in the library or School of Education. (Also, to check if any similar displays were already planned.) The Sigma Xi poster symposium at UNCW may be an option, but it is in early April.
 - ii. We can also check with the Women's Resource Center to see if any appropriate talks will be held in March.
 - iii. We will be meeting again in February and can discuss further plans regarding Women's History Month.
 - iv. The Regional Science Olympiad is held in March at UNCW. Perhaps of interest to our organization? Speak with D. Kubasko and J. Hall regarding our involvement.

VII. Upcoming Opportunities:

- a. Noble Middle School needed science fair judges (January 24, 2008) as well as future guest speakers. Those interested can contact Joshua Hunter: jhunter@nhcs.k12.nc.us.
- b. The SE Regional Science Fair needs judges for Saturday, February 16 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at Hanover Gym. Contact Bill Kawczynski: kawczynskib@uncw.edu.

- c. Onslow County needs guest speakers for high school biology (with a fairly open time frame). Contact Rachel Dodgens: Rachel.Dodgens@onslow.k12.nc.us.

VIII. Evolution Learning Community

- a. Anyone interested in attending events related to the promotion of evolutionary learning (and Darwin's birthday) the following activities are planned:
 - i. *Flock of Dodos* viewing and panel discussion with the executive producer:
Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 7 pm. (Morton 100)
 - ii. Ken Miller Book Group (Fridays 3:30pm) and Talk: February 26, 2008.

IX. General Feedback:

- a. Look into giving an award at the SE Regional Science Fair on Feb. 16th
- b. Speak with Angela Reid-Griffin in Education regarding school activities
- c. K. Proukou might be another good contact with the UNCW magazine
- d. Research grant opportunities for start up funds such as NSF at NSCU

X. Next Meeting: Monday, February 25, 2008 at 6:00 pm. (Dobo 131)

- a. We will hold elections at the next meeting and review the constitution.

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01/30/08