Subcommittee: Men’s Initiative and Support of Women

October 3, 2011

Present: Carolyn Fallahi, Bobbi Koplowitz, Krystal Rich, Jason Sikorski, Kim DeMichele, sally Lesik

We began with a discussion of men's issues on campus. Dr. Sikorski talked about his work on hyper masculinity. He has been working with Dr. Tordenti and the athletic department to see how we can meet the needs of men in support of women on campus. Dr. Tordeni has been running a group over the past year to discuss these issues. Dr. Sikorski is currently working with 3 athletic teams, basketball, soccer, and track and field, to not only educate men but also pilot study issues of hyper masculinity and mental health issues. We are not only interested in the way in which men might ultimately hurt women, but may hurt themselves. One way that he has addressed these issues is by talking to men about the way they live their lives. They deserve to live a better life. It was noted that people make assumptions or stereotypes about athletes. There are many athletes, as well as other males on campus, who do not fit the stereotype of the hyper masculine man.

Dr. Sikorski was wondering about the end of the year activity, maybe a walk with meaning. It would be an opportunity for education and have men state that they are not in support of negative stereotypes. Dr. Sikorski hopes to have some sort of action that is meaningful so that it creates dissonance and allows men on campus to think about the meaning of their actions.

Crystal Rich talked about the possibility of having photos of real men on campus to create an ad campaign in support of women. Others talked about having a critical mass event where all people from CCSU community are invited. We would love to have this open to the entire community.

We talked about a separate event were possibly combining with another event? A field day? We could advertise this to the community…. The idea that chivalry is not dead. Maybe we want to focus on one or multiple issues. Eventually, would love to do some sort of training or education in the dorms. This seems to be key. What we do a pretty good job CC issue of sexual violence awareness for women, we need to address the role that men play as well. One issue about going into the dormitory is that we need to work this out with residence life probably one year in advance.

Many of us are aware that William Fothergill in Counseling is working on similar issues. He runs a men's group at the counseling center and has been the primary contact for a men's health fair that seems to be ongoing. We plan to invite him to our next meeting to talk about what we might be able to do.

Also at our next meeting we hope to begin a mission statement as well as think further about the goals for the year. Jason and Bobby volunteered to be co-chairs of this committee. Our next meeting will be on Monday, November 7, at 11 o'clock in Carolyn’s office, 216 Marcus White Hall.