

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN FACULTY AND STUDENTS
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
MEETING OF OCTOBER 14, 2008
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Room 500, Main Building**

Members present: Amy Barrett, Lauren Cummings, Susan Dunn, Amber Handy, Sallie Hood, Jessica Kayongo, Susan Ohmer, Don Pope-Davis, Allison Regier, Carol Tanner

Members absent: Laura Carlson, Angie Chamblee, Mary Rose D'Angelo, Lauren Gamboa, Karen Graubart, Sharon Hu, Ken Milani

Permanent Invited Guests present: Catherine Pieronek, Director Academic Affairs and Women's Engineering Program, Dean's Office, College of Engineering; Kathryn Lam, Recorder

1. Welcome and prayer: Prof. Pope-Davis welcomed the members of the committee and thanked them for attending the meeting. Sr. Dunn offered the opening prayer.

2. Introductions: Members of the committee introduced themselves to those present. Prof. Pope-Davis distributed copies of the membership and contact information of the committee.

3. Election of Chair: The committee elected Prof. Ohmer as the chair of the committee for the 2008-2009 academic year.

4. Plans for Academic Year 2008-2009: Prof. Pope-Davis updated the committee on recent developments regarding the committee's report to the President, Fr. John Jenkins. During his recent faculty address, Fr. Jenkins shared data and statistics from the committee's report as well as the report from the University Committee on Cultural Diversity. Both reports have been made available to the Notre Dame community on the President's website and are in a period of comment and reflection. Prof. Pope-Davis noted that there are a number of parallel aspects and synergies between the two reports and he encouraged members to comment on the report (as instructed on the President's website) or simply give their support for the document and its recommendations. He explained that after the comment period, Fr. Jenkins, Provost Tom Burish and Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves will come together and publically provide structured feedback on the report. Until that time, there is no official charge to the committee.

Prof. Pope-Davis said that in the short term, there are some things in the report that do not need the immediate comment from the President as they are easily fixable. For example, the Dual Career Assistance Program reports to Prof. Pope-Davis and is in its second year of operations. A full time Manager of Spousal Support and Placement, Dorothy Mincy, has been hired to oversee the office. Beginning with this academic year, her work will relate not only to new employees, but to all current employees. Prof. Pope-Davis suggested that the committee consider inviting Ms. Mincy to a future meeting.

The Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) is another area that is currently receiving attention. Prof. Pope-Davis explained that the Office of the Provost recognizes that child care is

important in the recruitment of families. He currently serves as a member of the Executive Board of ECDC and will appoint someone from the UCWFS to replace him on that Board to serve as direct link between the committee and ECDC. Prof. Ohmer informed the committee that over the summer she met with a committee convened by Prof. Affleck-Graves to review ECDC. Linda Kroll, chair of that committee, indicated her interest in talking with the UCWFS.

Prof. Pope-Davis updated the committee on potential changes to increase transparency in the tenure and promotion review process. He also said that for the first time there will be executive leadership training for CAPs, chairs, deans, and PAC.

Prof. Pope-Davis encouraged the committee to invite Doug Marsh, University Architect, to a future meeting to discuss the building plan for the University that was recently approved by the Board of Trustees. He noted that Missy Conboy, Deputy Athletic Director, is another great resource to give an overview of the master plan for athletics. He also recommended that the committee consider inviting the University's new deans to explain their plan to recruit and retain women in their respective colleges.

In his final recommendation, Prof. Pope-Davis asked members to remember that in their position as committee members they represent a constituency. He said that he often hears faculty commenting that they do not know what goes on in various committees. He urged committee members to go back to their colleges/units and inform their constituencies about what is going on with the committee.

In response to Prof. Pope-Davis' prompt for other items the committee might consider this academic year, Ms. Pieronek said that the committee focused a lot on faculty issues over the past year and that it should consider student issues going forward.

3. Adjournment: With there being no further business to discuss, Prof. Pope-Davis adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.