

COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
SUBMITTED BY ERIN MCKENNA

The CSW had another active year. There were sessions at each APA and a variety of projects were continued or begun.

Committee Members: On July 1st we welcomed Cynthia Coe (Central Washington University), Kathryn Norlock (St. Mary's College Maryland) and Diane Michelfelder (Macalester College). We also welcome a new Associate Chair—Peggy DesAutels (University of Dayton). These new members bring a wealth of experience and energy to our work.

This fall the CSW was up for review by the APA Board. I went to the Board meeting and discussed our past work and our concerns about the data available from the National Office. They continue to work to address this issue and understand it affects the work of all the committees.

Chris Bellon took over as the editor of the *Newsletter on Feminism and Philosophy*, and so serves on the CSW.

APA Sessions sponsored by the CSW:

Eastern 2008: We co-sponsored a session on Miranda Fricker's book, *Epistemic Injustice*, and sponsored a session on "Philosophical Perspectives on Female Sexuality" and one on mid-career issues faced by women.

Central 2009: There was a panel on mid-career issues.

Pacific 2009: There was a panel on mid-career issues.

A subset of the papers presented on mid-career issues will be published in the next newsletter.

At the 2009 Eastern APA there will be a session on hiring and pre-tenure advice and one on gender issues connected to journal publications.

Handling the Hiring Process and Pre-tenure Life: This session will provide reflections and advise on the process of presenting one's self on paper, in an interview, at the receptions, and on campus. It will also discuss negotiating a contract, understanding tenure and promotion requirements, and strategies for balancing teaching, scholarship, and service in the pre-tenure years.

Examining Journals: This session will examine a variety of journals in philosophy. Following up on previous reporting about submission and acceptance rates, this discussion will look more deeply at several specific journals to see if there is any gender bias in what

gets published and, if so, what the causes of such bias might be. We will also make suggestions for overcoming any such bias.

Other projects:

Chris Bellon continued to volunteer her time to update and maintain the list of feminist friendly graduate programs. The national office has offered to help with this effort. Chris will continue to gather information and the staff in the national office will get it posted.

Miriam Solomon completed the pilot project of gathering membership and job placement information. We thank the national office for hiring some extra help last summer so that this very important effort was not delayed again. That report is posted on the CSW webpage. Chesire Calhoun, as chair of the Inclusiveness Committee is overseeing the project this summer.

The members of the CSW provided input on a variety of issues raised by the Inclusiveness Committee. I met with the IC at the Eastern APA.

Other projects remain as reported last year. We are looking to find ways to make the information we do have more accessible to the members of the APA. The possibility of a blog is being explored. There is also a concern with issues of the culture at APA meetings and in philosophy departments (is sexism on the rise?) We also struggle to help members when they contact us wanting information about the number of women earning PhDs, average number of women majors in undergraduate programs, or number of women being hired, tenured, and/or promoted. This is the kind of information we should be able to provide, but the committees are not equipped to gather it. This is where we need help from the national office.

Conclusion:

The CSW remains a very active committee. We do, however, believe that our work would be even stronger if the national office were in a position to regularly gather and report basic membership data information. We continue to encourage the Board to help with this. We plan to meet again at the 2009 Eastern APA.