We would like to thank the American Philosophical Association for your support of our Second Annual Undergraduate Women’s Philosophy Conference (April 28-30, 2017). You helped make our conference a tremendous success. We hope that we can continue this tradition of hosting such an important national event—the only of its kind. In what follow, we provide the requested information.

1. Progress and Results: Progress toward the goals and objectives of the conference.

We had four main goals and objectives that we wanted to achieve at our conference. In what follows, we describe each of the four goals and objectives and discuss the extent to which we achieved them.

A. Provide a supportive and community-building space for female-identified students to present their philosophical papers: MSU Denver upholds a longstanding commitment to providing a supportive environment that fosters the free exchange of diverse ideas and encourages people to express their viewpoints in a variety of ways, by engaging in respectful discourse in and outside of the classroom. The Second Annual Undergraduate Women’s Philosophy Conference supported these goals by providing a supportive space for female-identified students from across the nation to present their own philosophical work. Female-identified students and male-identified allies served as commentators, and audience members participated in the question and answer periods. Post-conference feedback demonstrates that we achieved this goal. One respondent noted, “This is what I wish we had more of at my school: having a conversation of such diverse ideas and embracing them. These are the types of programs and conferences needed for students to interact and build community, as well as share ideas.” Another respondent commented that the conference was a “super supportive environment.” Of note, we had four students who participated in our First Undergraduate Women’s Philosophy Conference who also participated in the second, including our student keynote speaker, Brenna Hafner. Hafner expressed, “I’ve been looking forward to attending and having the opportunity to present at this year’s conference since the beginning of the semester.”

B. Provide a space for students, faculty, and community members to participate in diverse and enriching philosophical discussions of high quality: The Second Annual Undergraduate Women’s Philosophy conference was open to all. Students, faculty, and community members who attended the event benefited from the diverse and high quality philosophical presentations and lively discussion that followed. As well, attendees benefited from the exceptional keynote lecture by Kristie Dotson, Michigan State University, entitled “Re-Introducing Identity Politics: Thinking Black Feminist Decolonial Practices.” The student keynote speaker, Brenna Hafner, Luther College, presented a terrific paper entitled “Conflicting Forces, Inflicting Peace: How Nietzsche’s...
Will to Power Endorses Dialogue Rather Than Conflict.” Attendees included students from across the United States, faculty from MSU Denver and regional institutions, and community members. Post-conference feedback demonstrates that we achieved this goal. A respondent noted: “The content of the talks was really great” and “great keynote speaker.” Another expressed the tremendous value of “having priority for student questions” and “having a LOT of time for questions and discussion.”

C. Provide a space that will work toward diversifying the discipline of philosophy, especially for female-identified people and people of color: The discipline of philosophy is notorious for its lack of diversity and underrepresented groups. The Undergraduate Women’s Philosophy Conference is committed to diversifying the discipline of philosophy by providing a supportive space for female-identified students, including female-identified students of color, and their allies to showcase their philosophical writings and engage in lively and fruitful dialogue to help foster understanding. Progress made toward this goal: Although we had a keynote lecture by prominent black feminist philosopher Kristie Dotson, which we had hoped would attract more students of color, and although we chose high-quality papers discussing diverse topics, we had very few students of color and other minority groups attending, and we had only four faculty/community members of color attending. We were disappointed in our lack of turnout of people of color. We strongly believe that this reflects the lack of diversity and underrepresented groups in the discipline rather than recruiting efforts on our part. Despite this disappointing result, we did achieve our goal of providing a supportive space for female-identified students and their allies, as noted in the above mentioned comments by respondents.

D. Provide a space in which participants are exposed to diverse philosophical and cultural topics: Our keynote speaker, Kristie Dotson (Michigan State University) gave an exceptional lecture entitled “Re-Introducing Identity Politics: Thinking Black Feminist Decolonial Practices. A lively and fruitful debate ensued amongst attendees. Further, many of our student presentations were on diverse topics reflecting differing cultures. For example: Emily Polvado (Loyola) gave her paper entitled “Home and Imagination in Palestine,” and Kristen Carlson (Luther College) gave her paper entitled “The Freedom of Nietzsche and Du Bois.” Sabine Bickford (Eastern Michigan University) gave a very provocative paper, “Beyond the Mind-Body Problem: A Feminist Relational Model of Mental Illness and Identity.”

2. Successes and Challenges: Significant successes and challenges of the conference.

One comment from the post-conference feedback really captures the success of our conference in achieving the above-mentioned goals: “Attending the undergraduate women’s philosophy conference this year was amazing and I wish I attended more/there were more of them. I think as a student it was one of the most beneficial things I have done for my academics. It allowed me to get a better idea of what it is like to partake in philosophy in academia in a more official sense…. Spending 3 days doing nothing but philosophy with like-minded students will not only
encourage and inspire you, but will give you indications as to whether you like academia and you want a job within that realm or not.”

The challenge that we continue to face is making the conference more appealing to people of color and other diverse groups. Despite (1) having a prominent black feminist philosopher, Kristie Dotson, give a provocative lecture on black feminist thought; (2) encouraging (in our Call for Papers) students of color and students from other minority populations to submit papers for the conference; and (3) advertising at Historically Black and Hispanic-Serving Institutions, we had very few people of color and other minority groups participate, as noted above. We do not know what more we can do to encourage more diverse participation. We are inclined to believe that this reflects the lack of diversity and underrepresented groups in the discipline rather than recruiting efforts on our part, though we are open to additional suggestions to improve this result.

3. Lessons Learned

Reading the post-conference feedback, it was clear that the timing of the conference was bad for students being so close to final exams. For example, one respondent noted: “The timing was really hard, being near the end of the semester. If it had been earlier or later I would have attended all talks, but having to study for finals made it difficult to justify attending all talks.”

We scheduled the conference around the keynote speaker’s availability, but the result was that several students were unable to attend all of the sessions because they rightly chose to study for final exams rather than attend each of the sessions. The poor timing of the conference, in addition to stretching the conference over three days (some students missed the first and third days because they were traveling), resulted in a diminished sense of community, compared to last year. This is not to say that the sense of community was lacking, just that it was not as strong as last year. Last year’s conference feedback noted that the conference was too jam-packed and made for an exhausting one day, hence our decision to stretch the conference over three days. Next year, in light of these lessons learned (and provided we can secure funding), we will set the conference date earlier in April and have a two- rather than three-day conference.

4. Additional Information that impacted the conference.

We had unusually cold temperatures and significant snow for the end of April, which we believe negatively impacted attendance on April 28-29.

Please note that final budget, conference program, and selected photos from the conference are in separate attachments.

Submitted August 6, 2017
Carol V.A. Quinn
## Second Annual Undergraduate Women In Philosophy Conference Budget

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<th>Item</th>
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<td>Friday Lunch Fat Jacks</td>
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Sunday April 30
Room: Tivoli 440/540 (Adirondacks)

9:00-10:00am: Breakfast and Registration

10:15-12:30pm: Paper Session 5
Feminist Philosophy
Chair: Melovy Melvin, MSU Denver

A: 10:15am-11:15am
Paper: Kalika Rudd
Northern Arizona University
“An Innocent Narcissism: A Phenomenology of Pregnancy”
Commentator: Sarah Bruckler, Eastern Michigan University

B: 11:30am-12:30pm
Paper: Sabine Bickford
Eastern Michigan University
“Beyond the Mind Body Problem: A Feminist Relational Model of Mental Illness and Identity”
Commentator: Kellye Plumley, MSU Denver

12:45-2:30pm: Student Keynote Presentation and Lunch
Chair: Carol Quinn, MSU Denver
Paper: Brenna Hafner
Luther College
“Conflicting Forces Inflicting Peace: How Nietzsche's Will to Power Endorses Dialogue Rather than Social Conflict”
Commentator: Chris Davis, MSU Denver

MSU Denver’s Second Annual Undergraduate Women’s Philosophy Conference
Conference Program

Reviewers:
Liz Goodnick
Carol Quinn
Tony Chu
James Reid
Alexa Brown
Danai Cruz
Chris Davis
Nick Frank
Gabriel Grinstein
Per Hovem
Adam Marquez
John Wilhelm

Sponsors:
American Philosophical Association
MSU Denver Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Provost Vicki Golich
Dean Joan Foster, LAS Dean’s Office
MSU Denver Department of Philosophy
Auraria Women’s Philosophy Group
MSU Denver Philosophy Club
MSU Denver Student Government Assembly
Denver Project for Humanistic Inquiry
Coffee by Koladis Coffee
Special thanks to Melovy Melvin, Gabriel Grinstein, and Alexa Brown for their work on the conference!
Friday April 28
Room: Plaza 250/260

10:00-11:45am: Registration

10:45am-12:30pm: Paper Session 1
Value (Ethics and Aesthetics)
Chair: Lucie Portilla, MSU Denver

A: 10:45am-11:45am
Paper: Emily Polvado
Loyola New Orleans,
“Home & Imagination in Palestine”
Commentator: Gabriel Grinstein, MSU Denver

B: 12:00-1:00pm
Paper: Elisa Reverman
The University of Portland
“Moral Obligation vs. Supereroga-
tion: The Ethics of Reporting Sexual Assault”
Commentator: Maria Morante, University of Northern Colorado

1:15-3:15pm: Workshop and Lunch
Featuring: Kristie Dotson, Michigan State University, Liz Goodnick, MSU Denver, Nancy Matchett, University of Northern Colorado, and Carol Quinn, MSU Denver

3:30-5:45pm: Paper Session 2
History of Philosophy
Chair: Melissa Oviatt, MSU Denver

A: 3:30-4:30pm
Paper: Tessa Brunnenmeyer
Southern Utah University
“Suspicious Patterning: Aesthetic Implications in Cavendish & Nature”
Commentator: Drew Howard, MSU Denver

B: 4:45-5:45pm
Paper: Kristen Carlson
Luther College
“The Freedom of Nietzsche and DuBois”
Commentator: Nick Frank, MSU Denver

6:00-8:00pm: Conference Dinner
Room: Tivoli 329

Saturday April 29
Room: Central Classroom 204/205

9:00-10:00am: Breakfast and Registration

10:15-12:30pm: Paper Session 3
Ancient Philosophy
Chair: Per Hovem, MSU Denver

A: 10:15am-11:15am
Paper: Alexa Brown
MSU Denver
“Socrates vs. Meno: Conceptions of Teaching and Learning”
Commentator: Liam Price, MSU Denver

B: 11:30am-12:30pm
Paper: Barbara Cohn
University of Florida
“In Defense of Aristotle’s Ideal”
Commentator: Joey Sable, MSU Denver

12:45-2:45pm: Kristie Dotson Keynote Address and Lunch
"Re-Introducing Identity Politics: Thinking Black Feminist Decolonial Practices"
Chair: Liz Goodnick

3:00-5:15pm: Paper Session 4
Metaphysics and Epistemology
Chair: Danai Cruz, MSU Denver

A: 3:00-4:00pm
Paper: Carolina Shams College of Wooster
“Race: An Unstable Non-Ontological Entity”
Commentator: Brenda Schilling, Clarke University

B: 4:15-5:15pm
Paper: Christina Topper
Notre Dame Maryland
“Testimonial Splintering: Tracking Silencing and Oppression”
Commentator: Amelia Thomas, University of Northern Colorado

6:00-8:00pm: Conference Banquet
Location: Rialto Cafe, 934 16th St. Denver, CO