Formerly the Special Committee On Faculty Women - (SCFW)

The Special Committee on Faculty Women met frequently throughout the academic year and worked on the following issues. Most of our faculty and many ex-officio members attended regularly, making substantive contributions to subcommittee work on mentoring and the evolution of the Committee into a Council.

1. Mentoring Portal: Pursuant to the thrust of the 2003-2004 SCFW, this year’s SCFW explored several concrete avenues for improving mentoring on the greater UW campus. More than twenty programs or groups on campus offer resources for mentoring. While these groups often share common goals and expertise, each tends to specialize in serving a particular sector of the UW community.

With the enthusiastic support of the majority of the programs/groups offering mentoring resources, SCFW submitted a proposal to the President's Diversity Appraisal Implementation Competition. SCFW requested funds to conduct “joint application design” sessions with the existing mentoring groups or programs in order to design, implement and assess a Web-based mentoring portal. When completed, the portal would 1) coordinate and connect existing mentoring resources on the greater UW campus, 2) make these resources accessible and searchable for interested members of the UW community, and 3) provide automated assessment vehicles that would let each program or group analyze which of their services was most popular on the portal. While this particular proposal was not funded, we will continue exploring ways to implement this portal in the coming year.

2. Change in name and status from a Committee to a Council: Given that the SCFW has existed as an ad hoc Committee for thirty-five years, and that there remain substantive issues that disproportionately impact women, in concert with the SCFMA we drafted legislation that would move us to Council status and accord us a vote on the SEC. This necessitated a change to the portion of the UW Handbook that deals with the Faculty Code and therefore required Class A legislation and a vote of the faculty.

We are very pleased that our request to become a fully legitimate Council, the Faculty Council for Women in Academia (FCWA), passed unanimously through the SEC and Senate and won an overwhelming majority in a vote of the faculty.