Committee on Gender Equity Issues in Anthropology 2011 Annual Report

Submitted by:

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1) Please list your Committee, Commission or Task Force Objectives and Responsibilities as stated in your group’s charge:

**Objectives**


**Responsibilities**

- To monitor all forms of gender discrimination within the discipline
- To pursue greater gender equity in the discipline by means of:
  - a. monitoring, including gathering information that illuminates issues that affect gender equity in anthropology as well as efforts to obtain existing comparable survey data,
  - b. advocating, including bringing findings before the Association's members, in the form of resolutions, when appropriate and
  - c. educating, including distributing brochures, meeting with department chairs, meeting with business representatives, setting up an interactive presence on the internet/web and writing periodic updates for the AN.
- To identify forms of sexual harassment and bullying in all settings where anthropologists work and learn including the varieties of biases that complicate issues regarding race/ethnicity, gender stereotyping and preferences, class, and disabilities.
- To interact on an ongoing basis with the Association's long range planning process on issues of gender equity.

2) Please list your Group’s goals, activities and accomplishments/products for the designated Period in relation to the AAA’s long range plan:

**Goal 1:**

To educate American Anthropological Association members of issues related to gender equity.

**Activity:**

In 2011, CoGEA organized a session at the American Anthropological Association meetings in Montreal entitled “Gender in Anthropology: Tidemarks and Legacies,” organized by Jennifer R. Wies (Eastern Kentucky University) and Hanna Garth (UCLA) and chaired by Stacie M. King (Indiana University). The selection of papers drew upon the theme “Traces, Tidemarks, and Legacies.” The session directly spoke to the influence of tidemark feminist theorists and practitioners on our conceptualization of gender within anthropology. The papers critically reflect upon the ways that “gender” continues to be used in contemporary
anthropological work.

**Accomplishment/Product:**
The session was very well attended, with over 70 participants. Papers were inclusive of the many subdisciplines in the field of anthropology. CoGEA reached out to the Association for Feminist Anthropology and proposed that the session papers form a special issues of the journal VOICES. The proposal was accepted and the papers will be published in the Fall 2012 issue.

**Explain any Gaps or Lack of Accomplishment Product:**
Not applicable.

**Relevant Objective in Long-Range Plan:**
This activity is relevant to LRP objective 5.2 because it promoted a broader theoretical and historical understanding of gender diversity in anthropological practice, research, training, and outreach.

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**Goal 2:**
To advocate for greater gender equity in the discipline of anthropology.

**Activity:**
Administration of the CoGEA Award (formerly the Squeaky Wheel Award) since 1997.

**Accomplishment/Product:**
In 2011, CoGEA presented the CoGEA Award to Professor Liz Brumfiel (1945-2012). The CoGEA Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated the courage to bring to light and investigate practices in anthropology that are potentially discriminatory to women, have acted to raise awareness of women's contributions to anthropology or identify barriers to full participation by women in anthropology, or have helped to bring about significant shifts in intellectual paradigms through their anthropological research on women's lives. This year, the CoGEA Chair invited all past recipients of the award to the ceremony. This initiative was successful and we plan to continue to foster this type of community event in the future. We were honored to have recognized Dr. Brumfiel and privileged to have provided a venue for her reflections on her advocacy work.

**Explain any Gaps or Lack of Accomplishment Product:**
Not applicable.

**Relevant Objective in Long-Range Plan:**
This activity is relevant to LRP objective 5 in that it promotes awareness of persistent inequalities in the discipline while showcasing the efforts of American Anthropological Association members to ameliorate gender inequities.

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3) Provide any additions or proposed changes to goals, activities, products or outcomes for the designated period:

**Goals:**
Not applicable.

Proposed Changes:
None

Activities:
Not applicable.

Proposed Changes:
None

Products/Outcomes:
Not applicable.

Proposed Changes:
None

4) Provide plans for 2012 in relation to existing or new goals/activities and relationship to the Objective in the Committee's or Commission's Charge and Long-Range Plan Objective (if not self-evident). Identify if they represent significant changes or elaborations on existing goals, objective activities, charge etc:

Committee/Commission Objective 1:
To educate American Anthropological Association members of issues related to gender equity.

LRP Objective 1:
5.2

New Goal and or Activity 1:
Organize a session at the American Anthropological Association meetings consistent with the committee objectives and responsibilities. For the 2012 meetings, CoGEA will organize a working session to collaboratively assess and define CoGEA’s leadership role in advancing gender equity within the discipline.
Committee/Commission Objective 2:
To advocate for greater gender equity in the discipline of anthropology.

LRP Objective 2:
5.0

New Goal and or Activity 2:
Administer the CoGEA Award (formerly the Squeaky Wheel Award) since 1997. For 2012, CoGEA is exploring the possibility of dedicating more time to the award presentation. We will continue to reach out to former award recipients and bring awareness of gender inequities and the advocacy work that is being pursued to the American Anthropological Association membership.

5) List financial and other resources in hand to complete the proposed work of the Committee, Commission or Task force for the coming year and explain any additional resources. Please list separately:

   a. Resources in hand or being sought independent of the AAA:
      Not applicable.

   b. Requests for additional resources from the AAA. Specify clearly which specific goals/activities etc. require additional resources from each source:
      Not applicable.

6) Have there been or do you propose any changes to the Objective or the Responsibilities of your Committee, Commission or Task Force If so, what are they and what is the rationale for them:

   Current Objective 1:
   Not applicable.

   Responsibility:
   Not applicable.

   Proposed Change:
   Not applicable.

   Rational for Change:
   Not applicable.

7) Are there issues you would like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Executive Board related to the work of your committee commission or task force?
   CoGEA is poised to collaborate with other committees and sections to address the American Anthropological Association LRP Objective 5. In 2012, we plan to bring relevant constituents together to devise directions and outcomes for our shared work and provide greater definition
to the committee’s relatively recent charge change that focuses on “gender equity.”