

Summer 1979

Coordinating Council Meetings at the Convention

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COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETINGS AT THE CONVENTION

The National Women's Studies Association's Coordinating Council met before, during, and after the First NWSA Convention to prepare for and carry out its conference-related responsibilities; to elect its leadership for the coming year; and to begin clarification of priorities, functions, and tasks growing out of the experience of this year's Convention.

These several Council sessions included the participation of newly elected caucus representatives to the Council, and that of many regional Council members-elect, whose formal terms of office will begin at the February 1980 Council meeting. A full listing of the 1980 Council will appear in a forthcoming issue of the *Newsletter*: names and addresses of the Council's 1979-80 Steering Committee and of Standing Committee chairs appear in this issue.

At the post-Convention Council session, each member of the Council introduced herself by sharing the item or issue she considered a priority for Council concern in the coming year. Consensus was evident in the frequency with which membership development and Association finances were listed as organizational concerns; work on elimination of racism and other biases as programmatic concerns.

The Council heard detailed reports from 1979 Convention Coordinators Emily Abel, Shirley Harkess, Deborah Rosenfelt, and Peg Strobel as background for a discussion of Convention planning for 1980. A report of the *Women's Studies Newsletter* Advisory Committee, recommending continuation of the current arrangement between NWSA and The Feminist Press for another year, was accepted by the Council. Annette Kolodny presented technical information on the potential functioning of a proposed NWSA Standing Committee on Title IX and Title VII, and a legal defense fund for Title IX and Title VII litigants.

Small working groups met and reported back to the full Council on nine items raised at the beginning of the post-Convention session: membership; regional development and liaison with caucuses; mechanisms for

dealing with resolutions and constitutional issues; organizational processes; racism and other biases; conference planning; women's studies issues and support of women's studies faculty; Delegate Assembly procedures; fundraising and financial priorities.

Subsequent discussion was primarily devoted to further exploration of issues related to NWSA dues structure for 1980, in the light of financial and membership reports from the 1979 meeting, and to development of a procedure for reviewing the many recommendations of the Delegate Assembly. To expedite this work, an ad hoc committee, chaired by Karen Blackwell, was appointed to assist the Steering Committee in advance of the Council's next meeting.

Submitted by Kay Towns

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THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

The 1979 NWSA Delegate Assembly, a body made up of more than 300 regional, caucus, and group member representatives, met for a full day at the NWSA Convention to hear reports on the state of the Association since its founding and to continue the process, begun in San Francisco, of developing governance structures and organizational priorities.

Reports were presented by Jan Meriwether, who spoke for the 1978-79 Steering Committee and described the activities of the Coordinating Council over the past two years; by Elaine Reuben, NWSA Coordinator, who reported on the efforts and accomplishments of the National Office in its first 18 months; and by Barbara Hillyer Davis, outgoing Treasurer, on behalf of the Membership and Finance Committees.

Additional reports were made by representatives of the Convention Committee, and by representatives from the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions on their agreement to include Virginia within the Southeast region.

The remainder of the morning session on NWSA business was devoted to discussion of constitutional issues, and to the evident need for clear procedures by which such issues might be brought before the Assembly. The NWSA Coordinating Council was mandated to examine the several constitutional issues referred to it, and to create appropriate means for informing the electorate about them before next year's Assembly.

In the afternoon session of the Assembly, delegates heard over 150 recommendations and resolutions from the Coordinating Council, from constituent caucuses and regions of the Association, from individuals, and from ad hoc groups formed at the Convention. It was clear that membership concerns extend beyond the narrowest limits of the academic, with feminist education seen as being within the context of a feminist movement for social change. It was also clear that this large number and wide range of proposals would require for their implementation far greater resources than