

ADVANCE FORWARD COMMITTEE

The Advance FORWARD Committee met April 24, 2009 in the Mandan room of the Memorial Union. Those in attendance were Canan Bilen-Green, Ann Burnett, Karen Froelich, Sandy Holbrook, Kalpana Katti, Rhonda Magel, Christine McGeorge, Craig Schnell, Don Schwert, Kay Sizer, Gary Smith, Wendy Reed, and Charlene Wolf-Hall. Other guests included Advocates Eugene Berry, Kevin Brooks, Doğan Çömez, Roger Green, and Mark Meister, Angela Bachman, and Julie Nash.

1. Introductions. The meeting began with introductions around the room.
2. Workshop Reminder. Members were reminded of the upcoming workshops to be presented by Toni Schmader on Friday, May 8. Members were encouraged to take posters and postcards to their respective departments and to encourage male faculty and chairs to attend.
3. External Evaluator. The contract with the external evaluator, Metis, was terminated this week. They will not bill for the time they came during the flood. Dr. Magel noted that there is an independent statistical consulting group on campus. Dr. Burnett noted that they have already started the process of finding a new external evaluator which may be the group here at NDSU.
4. Rescheduled Visits. Both the NSF site visit and the External Advisory Board (EAB) meetings were canceled due to the flood. The NSF site visit may occur during the summer. The EAB visit has been rescheduled for August 27 and 28.
5. Commission on the Status of Women Faculty. The commission is looking into how to handle the dependent care expenses that cannot be covered by the grant.
6. Allies Program. Advocates were invited to today's meeting for an opportunity to have an open discussion related to the Allies program and what the expectations are for Advocates. A handout was distributed that provided information on what was proposed in the grant application. Noted was the importance of training and that Advocates are just one piece in a much larger puzzle. The flood has thrown the Advocates timeline way off so it will be difficult to be ready by next year. It was noted that the diversity of the Advocates group allows them to be effective with a much wider audience. The Advocates were encouraged to begin with training within their own group as they have individuals with expertise that would be useful to this group. The Advocates have Chesler coming to campus to do some training. It will just be for the Advocates so it does not undermine the importance of their role. Chesler would also have an open forum that he would not connect to the Advocates for that reason. There was some discussion on additional funding. It was also noted that the Advocates could be part of the faculty workshop that is held.
7. Leap Grants. There will be an information session on May 5. There had been some criticism that the first round was too broad based and NSF asked that the focus be narrowed. Have only awarded three Leap grants so far. In regards to the STEM focus, NSF has suggested that we not tell applicants whether or not they are eligible, we have them prove that they are.
8. NSF Reports. The annual report is due June 1. The quarterly report will again be due in September.
9. Furniture Order. Those interested in the selection of furniture for the FORWARD space are welcome to attend the meeting with Susan Ray-Degges on April 28 at 1:00 p.m. in EML 269.
10. Next Meeting. Next meeting will be May 22 at 11:30 a.m. in the Mandan room.