2010-2011 Annual Report: Women’s Resource Center

1. Executive Summary: During the Academic Year 2010-2011 the Women’s Resource Center (WRC) offered a variety of programs meant to engage both the Loyola and greater New Orleans communities. The WRC partnered with a number of other units on campus, drawing on the strengths of our staff, faculty, and students here at Loyola to provide meaningful programs. One of the WRC goals is to regularly offer programming that is holistic and multi-dimensional. The WRC has strived in the past few years to include more input from the Loyola community and has worked especially to give a voice to students (the creation of the WRC Student Advisory Board in 2009-2010 and the addition of student interns in 2010-2011) in the types of programs we offer. In addition, we have been more intentional about outreach efforts to the New Orleans community, including other universities. In that vein, the WRC has begun a focus specifically on community service which we will continue to grow in the coming years.

2. Profile Summary:

2.1 Mission Statement: The mission of the Women’s Resource Center is to provide Loyola women and men with a positive college experience by responding to their needs as gendered human beings and by fostering an environment that is free of sexism and other forms of institutional and individual oppression.

2.2 General Statement: The Women’s Resource Center strives to create a supportive and inclusive campus environment through programming, services, and advocacy. The Center supports the educational mission of Women’s Studies through programming and services: it offers opportunities for students to explore questions and concerns and provides opportunities for intellectual, personal, and professional development and empowerment through programming; it encourages and promotes the interdisciplinary exchange of knowledge about women amongst faculty; and it seeks to include and respond to the needs of staff members.

2.2.1 Staff: One full time director, 1 part time work study student, 2 part time unpaid interns.

3. Assessment

3.1 Methods of Assessment: discussion and feedback from Women’s Studies Committee and Women’s Resource Center Student Advisory Board; “exit” meetings at the end of programs with partners in the program; informal discussion with students, faculty, staff, and community partners about programming; and pre and post evaluation forms for workshops. Additionally, information from Institutional Research has been requested and posted surveys have been consulted to help determine campus needs.

3.2 Program and Staff Goals for 2010-2011:

i. Continue to provide relevant programs and events and respond to the educational needs of the campus community.
ii. Continue to strengthen and develop collaborative ties with student organizations and other
campus organizations/offices/centers/academic departments/colleges through co-programming
and providing support by the WRC.

iii. Continue outreach efforts and community engagement activities both on-campus and off-
campus.

iv. Continue committee work and service to the University.

v. Continue professional development activities/projects and professional contributions.

4. Summary of Achievements

4.1 Unit as a whole:

Fall 2010

September 23: Sheryl Wu Dunn and follow-up Half the Sky Readathon which raised $1,296 for
the Haitian non-profit Fonkoze (co-programmed with Josh Daly of University Ministry and
Kristy Magner of the Center for International Education)

October 10: 3rd Annual Team Loyola Walks for Breast Cancer: American Cancer Society’s
Making Strides.

October 27: Take Back the Night (with Brooks Zitzmann of the UCC and Tulane University)

November 18: Nona Willis Aronowitz presentation of her book “Girldrive” about young women
and feminism today. This event included a panel of Loyola students who were interviewed for
the book.

Monthly:

- Fall Brown Bag lunch series: “Meet our Campus Center Directors – How Our Centers
  Address Women’s Issues” (Uriel Quesada, Debbie Danna, Kelly Brotzman)
- Women’s Studies interdisciplinary discussion groups
- Loyola Women Read book club gatherings

Spring 2011

February 14-19: Love Your Body Week:
February 26: Elect Her – Campus Women Win workshop

March: Women's History Month programming on women in STEM (Rise-Up: Women Mentoring Women panel discussion- co-programmed with Career Development Center; and Women Faculty in STEM appreciation reception - co-programmed with Women's Studies)

April 4–8: Sexual Assault Awareness Week (Clothesline Project and Soup and substance discussion on gender-based violence with Drs. Rae Taylor, Charles Corprew, and Erin Dupuis - co-programmed with Brooks Zitzmann of the UCC; and Walk a mile in her shoes - in conjunction with Tulane University)

April 9: Start $mart negotiating skills workshop (led workshop with representatives from the College of Law Career Services, the Career Development Center, and the Office of Professional and Continuing Studies)

Monthly:

- Women’s Studies monthly interdisciplinary discussion groups
- Loyola Women Read gatherings

4.2 Achievements/Service of Director

Presentations:

October 4, 2010: Presentation on Sojourner Truth at the Nu Mu Citywide Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority October 4, 2010 program: “Ain’t I a Woman? A look at the Women’s Suffrage Movement from Both Sides”

February 12, 2011: Presentation at Sexual Assault Advocacy training – February 2011

Publications:

“The Road(s) Taken.” An essay in Sacred Trespasses: A Loyola New Orleans Faculty Reader. Walker Percy Center for Writing and Publishing at Loyola University New Orleans, 2011

Maroon Articles:

November 12, 2010: "Healthy Sexuality is Important"

March 25, 2011: "Women Rise in Male-Dominated World" (women in the STEM fields)
Conference Presentation

Panelist for Womens’ Centers session: “Support, Empower, Educate: The Role of Women’s Centers at Catholic Universities and Colleges”
Association for Student Affairs at Catholic Colleges and Universities Conference
Boston College
July 2011

Teaching:

- Fall FYS Seminar: “All the World’s a Stage: The Performance of Gender”

Advising:

- Advisor to Women’s Initiatives Organization
- Secondary advisor to Peace Conference

Committee Service:

- Member of WS committee (and steering committee)
- Member of HEAL committee
- Member of Diversity committee
- Member of Center for Faculty Innovation Advisory committee
- Member of CFI subcommittee on extraordinary faculty
- Member of Centennial committee
- Member of Care and Concern committee
- Member of Safe Zone working group
- Member of the Student Leadership Awards committee

Community Service:

- Board member (board secretary) of Metropolitan Center for Women and Children
- Louisiana State Chair of CARE

5. Budget

5.1 Previous year’s budget: $9,900
5.1.1 The budget for 2010-2011 made programming challenging. As in previous years, co-
programming with other units helps to mitigate the budgetary constraints. Also, programming
costs were supplemented with support from the Provost's office as well as a Biever grant.

5.2 The upcoming year’s expected budget: $9,900 (?) As of now the primary costs are
associated with programming such as the 20th Anniversary of Take Back the Night, Love Your
Body Week, Sexual Assault Awareness Week, and regular monthly/yearly WRC programs.

6. Planning and Goals for the upcoming year

6.1 General Statement:

The process of strategic planning for the upcoming year will be a combination of consultation
with the Women's Studies Committee and Student Advisory Board as well as an evaluation of
the data collected from focus-groups, individualized dialogue, and surveys that will be conducted
throughout the year.

6.2 The WRC support of the strategic plan of the University:

The goals and objectives and the programming that is created by the WRC to meet those goals
and objectives keeps in mind the overall strategic plan of the University. Through its
programming, the WRC intentionally responds to the stated values of our university of acting
justly and thinking critically in a way that engages both our Loyola and our New Orleans
community. Further, the WRC seeks ways to build on our strengths as a university, partnering
with units across campus to provide excellent programming to our faculty, staff, and students.
And as we move forward, we will build on our outreach efforts, with an increased focus on
reaching out to other universities, to our New Orleans community and to communities beyond
through organizational membership, service, social justice activism, and community partnering.

6.3 Strategic plan/goals:

- integration of gender considerations into campus programming and curriculum;
- establishment of positive policies and protocols that take into consideration gender and
women's issues; and
- development of strong community relationships with a focus on girls' and women's
empowerment

Objectives for 2011-2012

- Offering meaningful, substantive programming that engages our campus community in
conversation around women's and gender issues;
• Serving as an advocate for integration of women's and gender issues through college service and committee work;
• Co-programming with other centers, departments, and units;
• Promoting and offering community service and activism projects;
• Working with the Women's Studies Committee to formulate a strategic plan;
• Working with faculty to integrate center programming in women's studies courses;
• Supporting student interest in gender and women's issues through advising of the Women's Initiatives Organization; consultation with the WRC Student Advisory Board; offering internships (unpaid) at the WRC; dedicating a portion of the operating budget to helping students attend conferences and leadership workshops;
• Building new and growing existing relationships with other universities and community partners through existing and new programming;
• Working towards greater visibility and professional development activities of the Center's director