1.0 Executive Summary

Department name, description of department. **AY 2012-2013 Annual Report**

1.1 Women’s Resource Center

1.2 Distinctive Mission and Purpose Statements:

   A. 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.

   B. General Statement: The Women’s Resource Center is a resource for the entire campus community. As such, it strives to create a supportive and inclusive campus environment through programming, services, and advocacy. The Center also supports, in particular, 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; 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.

1.3 Executive Summary: During the Academic Year 2012-2013 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 continue to be intentional about outreach efforts to the New Orleans community and beyond.

2. Assessment of Center’s Strategic Goals for 2012-2013

The 2012-2013 objectives were mostly met through a variety of programming, outreach efforts, and activities of the director over the course of the year. The integration of paid interns at the WRC not only continues to have a significant impact on the ways the center has been able to reach the student body, but there has been an increase in student interest for applying for these positions. This year the interns have been allowed substantial leadership development opportunities in creating, planning, and promoting WRC programs. Their level of participation in these programs has been
critical in garnering student interest. Further, their social media campaigns to promote the WRC and its programs as well as their informal outreach efforts have helped to create a buzz about the center.

Our regular annual programming such as Love Your Body Week, Take Back the Night, and Sexual Non-Violence week were successful in the ways the WRC continued to build awareness, provide leadership development opportunities for students, and foster/maintain partnerships with other units and student organizations on campus as well as with other universities and local/national agencies. (e.g. Tulane and Dillard – TBTN; CARE – Love Your Body Week)

Our most successful stand-alone program for students was the community building retreat during the fall semester. About twenty students, with interests in women’s and gender issues, gathered at the Rivers Retreat Center to create a vision and set some goals for strengthening their community. They spent time in group discussion and activities as well as reflection. The format of the retreat allowed them to discern their interests and needs, to find ways to clearly articulate those interests and needs, and importantly to get to know/understand each other better. The retreat was facilitated by the WRC director and Laura Alexander, the Assistant Director of University Ministry, who has expertise in running retreats. The vision and conversation generated was primarily guided by the needs and interests of the students. By the end of the retreat, the primary interests articulated by the students were to continue to build community and to establish more opportunities to form connections to the faculty (“beyond the classroom” learning).

One of the principal challenges in maintaining goals set for this year was the move that happened in the middle of the fall semester. It was a month-long distraction at a time that is typically very busy at the WRC. Mid-fall generally is a time of heavy programming and of planning for and organizing spring programming. Also, budget cuts and a general anxiety across campus about our university’s current and future financial situation had an impact on planning with other units and overall interest in programming.

After knowing I’d be leaving at the end of this academic year the WRC did not start or continue any big, long-term initiatives that would go beyond this academic year. It is recommended that the new director reengage with students and faculty on the community-building initiative.

3. Summary of Women’s Resource Center’s Achievements and Committee Service

3.1. Staff: One full time director, 4 part-time paid student interns (10 hours/week).

3.2 Summary of Center Programming and Achievements

3.2.i Unit as a whole:

Fall 2012

Voter Registration Drive. Co-programmed with SAGE and AAUW

Take Back the Night. Co-programmed with the UCC, Tulane University, and Dillard University (October 23, 2012)
JSRI Human Trafficking Conference. WRC one of many co-sponsors. (October 24 and 27)

Student Retreat (November 2-3, 2012)

Alumni in Action Guest Speakers:

Ecoee Rooney, RN  ’92 (BA); ’05 (MSN) “Delivering Excellence in Health Care: A Human Rights Issue” (October 18, 2012)

Amy Boyle Collins ’96 (BA) “Building on a Solid Foundation” (November 15, 2012)

**Spring 2013**

Love Your Body Week (March 4-8):
This year’s programming focused on women’s health issues internationally and locally: AIDS/HIV, maternal health, and reproductive health. Awareness/Advocacy tabling all week; Alumni in Action guest speaker Samuel Burgess on AIDS/HIV; film screening with Film Buffs and ISA– “No Woman, No Cry” (WRC director gave a brief presentation and let Q & A afterwards).

“Elect Her” – Student Leadership Training Program. In collaboration with AAUW and Running Start. (March 10) This year held in conjunction with Prof. Natasha Bingham’s Poli Sci course on Gender, Race, and Politics

“A Question of Habit” - documentary and panel discussion featuring local women religious and the film creator Bren Ortega Murphy, Ph.D. from Loyola Chicago. Co-programmed with the Women’s Studies Program

Sexual Non-Violence Week (April 8-12) Co-programmed with UCC, SAGE, and Pan-Hellenic

Crystal Williams Poetry Reading. Co-sponsored with the Women’s Studies Program, the Diversity Committee, the English Department, and the African and African American Studies Program (April 18)
Monthly:

Women’s Studies monthly interdisciplinary discussion group (Fall 2012)
Loyola Women Read gatherings for alumnae and staff

3.2.ii Achievements/Service of Director

Presentations/Guest Lectures:
Panelist at the Ashe Cultural Center’s program on Human Trafficking (September 14, 2012)

Presentation on “Equal Pay as Social Justice” for Loyola Theatre Department’s production of *Wealth* (February 2, 2013)

Presentation on “Sexual Assault in a Social and Historical Context” for the Sexual Assault Advocacy Initiative Training hosted by the UCC (September 15, 2012 and February 23, 2013)

Guest Lecture on Feminism, Sexual Violence, and Take Back the Night for Robert Bell’s First Year Seminar course (October 23, 2012)

Guest Lecture on women’s health and reproductive rights for Sue Mennino’s Women’s Studies Intro course (February 22, 2013)

Last Lecture for SAGE (Student Advocates for Gender Equality) – “Doing Gender Justice” (April 2013)

Maroon Articles: “Rape Culture Must Be Dispelled” (February 28, 2013)

Teaching:
Fall 2012 FYE Seminar: “Gender Play: Becoming Men and Women” (A renaming of previously taught: “All the World’s a Stage: The Performance of Gender” (included a required Service Learning component)

Spring 2013 Honors Course: “Bodies, Power, and Cultural Production”

Advising:
Advisor to SAGE (Student Advocates for Gender Equality)

Committee Service:

ED -Member of WS committee (and steering committee): 2008-present
ST - Member of HEAL committee: 2008-present

ED, ST - Member of Diversity committee: 2008-present

ED - Member of Center for Faculty Innovation Advisory committee: 2010-present

ST - Member of the Student Leadership Awards committee: 2008-present

Leadership:

Member of the Provost’s 2012-2013 Higher Education Administration Leadership Group

Chair of “Co-Curricular Programs and Activities, Campus Life, Campus Traditions, and Student Engagement” Workgroup for the campus-wide Student Success Initiative

4. Strategic Planning and Goals for 2012-13:

Offering meaningful, substantive programming that engages our campus community in conversation around women's and gender issues;

Offering programs that highlight our Centennial Year Celebration

Serving as an advocate for integration of women's and gender issues through college service and committee work;

Creating a WRC e-newsletter

Co-programming with other centers, departments, and units;

Promoting and offering community service and activism projects;
Continuing work with the Women's Studies Committee to formulate a strategic plan;

Continuing to work with faculty to integrate center programming in women's studies courses;

Supporting student interest in gender and women's issues through advising of the SAGE; consultation with the WRC Student Advisory Board; offering internships 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;

Focusing on the WRC Director’s professional development through activities such as conference presentations*, course development, and project planning and implementation based on the HERS Institute experience.

Continue to provide relevant programs and events and respond to the educational needs of the campus community.

 *[Note that professional development and conference opportunities were curtailed/cancelled because of budget constraints.]

5. Assessment

5.1 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.

6. Budget

5.1 Previous year’s operating budget: $12,000

5.1.1 The operating budget of $10,800 (cut from $12,000 after start of academic year) for 2011-2012 was sufficient for programming this academic year. As in previous years, co-programming with other units helps to mitigate the budgetary constraints. (The move of the WRC from its offices in Mercy Hall to its new offices in Marquette Hall during the fall semester meant curtailing programming for logistic and timing reasons.)

5.2 The upcoming year’s expected budget: $7,560 – an anticipated 30% cut from this year’s already cut budget. It will be challenging to program with this reduced budget. It will be even more critical to maintain and build partnerships with units on campus and to co-program.

5.3 Last year’s intern salary budget of $10,000 is expected to remain the same for the 2013-14 academic year. It will be important to remind Adrienne Blanco’s office that this is part of the WRC budget.
7. Planning and Goals for the upcoming year

7.1 General Statement:

To be determined with the input of the incoming Interim Director who as of this date has not yet been appointed. (5/13/13)

7.2 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.