



**The Clover Park Technical College Chapter of the American Association for Women in  
Community Colleges**

**General Membership Meeting**

**Monday, May 5, 2014, 2-3 p.m.**

**Building 19, Room 124**

**Present:** Courtney Akinniyi, Michelle Barre, Vicki Buford, Debbie Collins, Tawny Dotson, Heather Ervin, Linda Felch, Lisa Fortson, Janet Holm, Patricia Lange, Josie Meyer, Jamilyn Penn, Debbie Ranniger, Marion Sharp, and April West-Baker.

**Call to Order**

Tawny Dotson called the general membership meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Tawny requested that members review the meeting minutes from the October 7, 2013, general membership meeting. After which, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Heather Ervin moved to accept the meeting minutes. Marion Sharp seconded the motion. Tawny opened the floor for discussion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

**President's Report (Year-in-Review)**

Tawny presented her year-in-review report, which was actually 10 months ago. One year ago, a group met to talk about starting an AAWCC Chapter and worked to organize a chapter. The kick-off luncheon was in August, and there were more than 60 people in attendance, which far exceeded all expectations. It was very successful. The guest panelists were Dr. Michele Johnson and Mary Moss, and they told their story about developing as women and leaders.

During the kick-off timeframe, the membership soared from zero to 25 members. Since that time, the Chapter has held three events to walk through the *Lean In* book written by Sheryl Sandberg. There have been engaging conversations in large groups and small groups. The members heard speakers addressing mentoring, and three speakers on female leadership.

The AAWCC Board has met monthly to create processes for dues, programming, membership, and more. All told we have created an organization from scratch that is poised to establish a more formal way to mentor and develop women in the community college system. No one person has made the organization successful instead we have all chipped in where we could. From Janet Holm's counting of the ballots initially; from Debbie Collins reaching out to potential speakers she had never met; from Josie Meyer stepping in to serve as president-elect; to Lisa Fortson establishing our very first bank account with the help of Heather Ervin and Debbie Ranniger in the Foundation; from Claire Korschinowski establishing a membership roster, shared drive, and surveys; to Jamilyn serving as

moderator at our programming event. No one contribution, meeting or event was most important instead they all made a difference.

Tawny voiced that she was most proud to see new faces and leaders among us, which is what our organization is all about. It is about developing each other into the next wave of leadership. Tawny has noticed people who have not been willing to step up who are now speaking in front of a crowd and signing up to run events. She has seen people establishing formal mentors on their own and women who have truly leaned into taking control of their careers and their lives. We have shared our varying opinions, goals, and dreams, and we have made a difference in just 10 months.

Tawny expressed that she looks forward to supporting the next Board as they work to improve the foundation and take the organization to the next level. Tawny voiced that it was her privilege to serve as the inaugural president, and she congratulated everyone on a very successful year.

### **Election of Officers**

Tawny directed the members to the ballot that they received for the election of the 2014-2015 officers for the AAWCC Chapter at Clover Park. The bylaws call for a secret ballot process and allow for write-in candidates. She gave instructions for filling out the ballot and placing the completed ballots into the ballot box for tally after the meeting. There was a brief break in the meeting for voting.

### **Membership Survey**

Tawny will be sending out a membership survey that was developed by the Board to gather feedback. When starting a new organization, it is always a challenge to ensure that the organization is viable but also valuable to its members. The intent of the survey is to give insider input and ideas to the next year's Board as they look at what was done last year, and what can be done better.

### **Kick-Off Committee Establishment**

Josie reported that there will be planning for the next kick-off luncheon event that is scheduled for July. Beyond the Programming Committee, the Board is asking for volunteers to help plan the event. The theme for the luncheon will be based on Chapter 11 loosely or not, which will lead our group from the *Lean In* focus into whatever will occur this next year. The transition is called Working Together Toward Equality. Members who volunteered for the Kick-Off Luncheon Committee were: Courtney Akinniyi, Michelle Barre, Heather Ervin, Marion Sharp, and Jamilyn Penn. All members were encouraged to contact Tawny or Josie with ideas or with their offer to join the committee. The Programming Committee has a meeting directly following this meeting, and Josie invited everyone to stay if they wished.

### **Programming Committee: June 2 Event**

Debbie Collins reported that the next event is scheduled for June 2 and will center on Chapter 9, The Myth of Doing It All, and Chapter 10, Let's Start Talking About It. The committee is looking at possibly starting the event with a video clip and breaking into small groups for some focused-discussion from those chapters. It will be a brown-bag event during the lunch hour beginning at 11:30 a.m. Our Chapter will provide beverages and cookies. The location will be announced. The following members volunteered to serve on Programming Committee: Michelle Barre, Heather Ervin, Pat Lange, and Marion Sharp.

Tawny announced that dependent on the outcome of the election, the Programming Committee will need a co-chair, which will be a Board appointment. Please forward your name if you are interested.

Josie and Debbie described the process that the Programming Committee used to develop the programming. There was a committee, which slimmed down as the year passed: Debbie Collins, Kendra Fitch, Lisa Fortson, Josie Meyer and Jamilyn Penn. There were meetings, researching, and brainstorming to develop ideas and achieve the event outcomes. The group divided the work as much as possible. The event attendance was used as an event-success rating tool. Considering the size of the membership, the attendance was satisfactory. The Programming Committee surveyed the members and attendees of events to gather feedback on what went well and what didn't work and used the feedback for improvements to the next event(s).

The Programming Committee will be looking for a new theme for next year. If the membership has ideas on themes, books for a book study or an amazing speaker, please pass those ideas along to the committee.

### **Other Discussion**

Tawny asked the general membership if they had any additional information, feedback or questions. She pointed out two things to the members that when the group originally formed we had hoped to do.

1. Scholarship(s)
2. Put into place formal mentoring opportunities

The challenge this year was having enough people to put the time and energy toward those things. If members have an interest in doing something for example a scholarship, the Board would love to hear in your interest of doing and running something in those arenas.

Jamilyn Penn suggested having our own chapter's scholarship. There is the national scholarship. One of our members applied and didn't get accepted; however Jamilyn was proud of her taking the initiative to apply. She voiced that it would be important for the chapter to rally around applicants because the deadlines come up quickly. Plus, there was a scholarship to the AAWCC Leadership Academy, and there was one applicant from our Chapter.

Jamilyn commented that she started reading Sheryl Sandberg's next book, which is *Lean In for Graduates*. The book is essentially the same chapters that Sheryl has in her original *Lean In* book and goes a step further and introduces CEOs, presidents, and women in various positions and a few men. There is additional information between the chapters. Jamilyn was led to the book from an article written by someone she admires. The article addressed sexism and racism and combination of both and what that looks like.

Tawny encouraged members to take steps to reach out to colleagues and fellow members to get them information about AAWCC, answer questions, and encourage them to attend meetings and events. For the June event, Tawny would love to see members bring a friend, so invitees could come and be introduced to the organization, and they could see what goes on outside membership meetings.

Tawny referred members to the bylaws on the website for description of the duties for each of the Board positions. After the election results, officers are encouraged to contact the president for additional information and answers to any questions.

### **Adjournment**

Tawny adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m. and thanked everyone for attending.