

Interoffice Communication

Committee on Women
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
of Science and Technology

DATE September 28, 1973

TO Dr. Layton
118 Beardshear

FROM Jean Palmer *JP*
110 Memorial Union

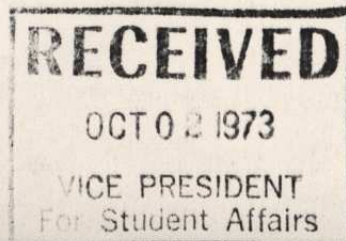
Re: Proposal for a Women's Center

The following women met with Dr. George Christensen in regard to the proposal for a Women's Center: Marita Jones, Nancy Cherry, Kay Holmberg, Phyllis Miller, Donna Nelson, and Jean Palmer. Also in attendance was Dr. Ed Lewis.

Dr. Christensen made the following comments in regard to the Center Proposal. He said that money was not available to implement such a plan as this. He indicated he would share the proposal with the Committee on Women. He will ask them to see what can be implemented and how this can be done through the present structure we have at Iowa State. Phyllis Miller raised the concern that the Committee on Women did not constitute a broad section of women in the Ames community. Discussion was held about this. Dr. Christensen indicated that we need to be conscious of what groups of people Iowa State would serve.

Kay Holmberg indicated that she thought that a Women's Center as one structure was important. She felt that women need one place in which they can go to get many of their needs served. This is presently not possible at Iowa State. Several of the other women at the meeting agreed with Kay. Dr. Christensen seemed to be listening to this specific concern. He did indicate that he felt that at this point in time it was not something that could be done.

Dr. Christensen questioned the need for separating women's studies away from present courses. He felt that in some cases it might be better to incorporate the concerns of women within the present courses offered. Some concern was voiced by Marita Jones that several of the courses that were concerned about women have been eliminated. Dr. Christensen suggested that some women's studies courses could be put into the University Studies curriculum.



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Dr. Lewis indicated that the format for the International Programs could possibly be followed by the Women's Programs. A concern of some of the women at the meeting was that most of the Iowa State community functions more around academics than programming. Dr. Christensen suggested that there might be a separate committee set up on Women's Programming. The women felt that the proposal dealt a good deal with programming and that this would be left by the wayside if there was not some definite commitment made to implementing some of the programming ideas.

Dr. Christensen asked that we be realistic in our ideas about a Women's Center. He said that we do need to be practical and that in order for the proposal not to die, we need to work at it in stages. He said he does not like the possibility of a demand that there be all or nothing, for nothing would probably be the result.

Dr. Christensen questioned the budget and how we would be able to be self-sufficient in five years. Marita Jones indicated that through grants and other means the committee hoped to come up with some funds that would make the Center self-sufficient. In addition, there would be charges for certain of the services available at the Center. A third way for meeting costs was to have some joint appointments in departments and the Women's Center.

Dr. Christensen ended the meeting by reiterating that he would be giving this proposal over to the Committee on Women for their study. Marita Jones indicated that this committee would be sharing their proposal with a number of women's groups. I'm not sure what is going to happen after that.

If you have some further suggestions for me in regard to that proposal, or if you'd like to visit with me about it, I would be more than willing to do that with you. I have shared the proposal with Johan and with the 5th floor staff.

JP:jld

cc: Dr. Johan Madson