

*Proposed motion: Approve the 2 proposals for gender-exclusive programming and the proposal for gender-targeted programming for the Women's Center as stated in Doc. 2.*

## **AS Board of Directors Proposal for Gender-Targeted Programming**

Presented by Kristy Hathaway, Danny Canham, Anna Ulmer and Elana Cohen  
Associated Students Women's Center

This year the Associated Students Women's Center is proposing to offer *four* gender targeted programs. This proposal is designed to give you an introduction to the purpose of each of these programs, as well as to give you a background in our understanding of why it is important for these programs to be targeted toward gender-specific students and community members. The Women's Center believes in the power of gendered spaces in helping to empower individuals of all gender-identities and the need to create safe spaces for healthy expression.

### **Program Proposal #1:**

#### **Spring Quarter 2013: Take Back the Night March (gender exclusive)**

The Women's Center will be offering Take Back the Night March, the required annual event for the office. This event will include a speaker, a rally, and a march through downtown Bellingham. The speaker and rally segment of this event will be inclusive of all genders. However we are requesting that the March through Downtown Bellingham be only for students and community members who identify with an underrepresented gender (women and trans\* identities). This event has historically been gender targeted at women-identified students and community members due to the nature of the event being for "women to take back the streets" and to make a stance about safety and against violence, but we want to continue including trans\* identified people in the march because the streets are not always safe for them either. This event is intended to honor the voices, spaces and safety of those with an underrepresented gender identity and therefore, we hope to have the march be for women and trans\* students and community members only.

However, the other segments of the event are open to all genders and the Men's Violence Prevention Project will host a Candlelight Vigil during the March in order to give individuals who identify as men a chance to participate in all aspects of the event to some extent. In addition, Western Men Against Violence is a formal co-sponsor of Take Back the Night.

**Program Proposal #2:****February 20-23, 2013: The Vagina Memoirs (gender exclusive)**

The Vagina Memoirs is one of Women's Center's most powerful and valuable events that we offer and has been an integral program for the Western campus for the last six years. The 2010 production of the Memoirs won an international award from the Association of College Unions International for the Student-Driven Program of the Year! We propose to have gender exclusive programming for the Vagina Memoirs Open Casting Call November 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, the weekly process meetings for the selected cast members in Winter Quarter, and the production of the show February 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>.

As the last few years have shown, we are seeking to have a trans-inclusive program for the Vagina Memoirs. This inclusivity offers the chance for all people who have been marginalized by their gender to participate in both the process and production. This production is based on empowering and amplifying voices that may have never had a platform, providing an opportunity to share stories. This program specifically addresses stories related to the historically silenced issues of gender-marginalized folks' bodies, sexuality, reproductive rights, and experiences with violence. Due to the gendered nature of how we view these issues in our society, we believe it is valuable to offer this program and process to gender-marginalized students.

Despite the gender exclusivity of the actual cast, we do support the inclusion of males who identify as men with other parts of the Vagina Memoirs, e.g. volunteering at the event, attending the performances, etc. We believe it is incredibly important that people of all gender identities have the chance to support and witness the production of the Vagina Memoirs at Western this year. We are incredibly proud at the progress that the Women's Center has made in the past toward including men's voices in new visions of feminism and we hope to continue this work by developing strategies for integrating more volunteers to support the production itself.

**Program Proposal #3:****Winter Quarter 2013: Women's Night @ the Rec Center (gender targeted)**

This nighttime event offers women-identified students the chance to engage more fully in activities at the Wade King Student Recreation Center. At this event we will be offering workshops and various fitness classes as well as other activities.

We value having this program be gender-targeted towards women-identified students because it promotes community building amongst women-identified students in a safe and supportive way. Additionally this program is based in awareness that aspects of gyms, athletic communities, and types of recreation are male-dominated arenas which are often times not inclusive of and intimidating to women-identified fitness enthusiasts.