

AC 232

BOX 20 FOLDER 8

Should MIT have a Women's Center? 1982

M.I.T. WOMEN'S CENTER Committee

Minutes of meeting, May 4, 1982

Present: Blank, Coleman, Kellerman, Kellison, Leong, Mintz, Salkind, Sweet, Weidman, Wieckert.

*New file -  
Keep with  
women at  
MIT  
folders*

**MIT WOMEN'S CENTER**

[MCP logo]

We discussed the Alumni telethon for June, and there was a request for more information from the telethon coordinator. Since this meeting I met with Jeff Solof, and we've decided to go for the fall telethon, with a joint effort from AWS and AMITA. We have an appointment with Joe Collins for Friday May 21 10 a.m., to discuss setting up an account in the alumni fund.

There was also a request for a revised proposal and an outline for programming for the first few years. I revised the proposal, and Karen Wieckert wrote an outline for programming [both are attached - please read them and bring comments to next meeting]. These were prepared for the annual alumnae meeting held at Endicott house Sat. May 8, and were presented there by Margaret Coleman.

Janna Mintz and Betsy Salkind reported on their meeting with MCP Women's Center reps. and announced our membership in a new Boston area coalition. Since then they have again met with these women and are working on budget proposals with them. They are in the same part of the setting up process as we are.

We will be seeking letters of support from existing women's groups.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY MAY 19, 1982 at 12 noon in the Cheney room(3-310)

- we will discuss the proposal and outline (Wieckert)
- Telethon (Kellerman, Salkind) - Schedule for next few months
- AMITA meeting (Coleman)
- Committee to write difference from Cheney room

We will continue to meet over the summer, and we're still looking for a Chair.

See you at the next meeting  
Betsy Salkind

**MARY P. ROWE**  
Special Assistant to the President

**MAY 12 1982**

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File # \_\_\_\_\_

# The Women's Center: Statement of Purpose

## I. The Need For A Women's Center

Women students at M.I.T. [both undergraduate and graduate] find themselves in a fundamentally different position from male students. We are still a minority in all of the coed living groups, in our courses, and in each year's entering class. [For example, women are 23% of undergraduates and 19% of graduates.]

The need for a women's center arises from the fragmentation imposed upon women by M.I.T.'s history and structure, which have been traditionally male-oriented. Because of our minority status, it is easy for women to become isolated within the Institute. In response to this situation, women students have organized themselves into ongoing and ad hoc groups. Some of these groups [such as AWS] have had problems with continuity and visibility because of the lack of a physical base of operations for their work. Many women now and in the past have spoken about the need for a women's center to serve as a focus for these groups. At one time McCormick Hall served as a women's center, but since 1969 when M.I.T. changed its admissions policy, and with the advent of coed housing, women have been dispersed across campus. Although M.I.T. has hired a coordinator for women student's interests, we feel we also need a physical location through which we can more effectively pursue our interests. Already many women have come together over the issue of such a center and believe that it would address and help resolve the isolation of women students.

## II. The Purpose of the Women's Center

The Center will exist primarily to facilitate communication and co-operation among women, and serve as a base of operation for groups such as AWS. The need for more effective publicity and communication between women's groups and the community at large, and the current lack of attention paid to women's concerns and women's events sponsored by various Institute agencies and offices necessitates the function of the center as an information resource center on issues, organizations, and events of interest to women.

To aid in this task we plan to start a publication through the center.

(The Center)  
It will house materials on women's issues; <sup>and</sup> run educational programs which are currently run through the Cheney room, be a resource for women's studies, and do referrals to educational, legal, health, and counseling services at M.I.T. as well as in the Boston metropolitan area. [The Cheney room provides a lounge area for women students, but cannot accommodate activities such as we propose here without fundamentally altering its charter.] The center will also network with other women's centers, particularly at other colleges and universities. The center will be a place where both undergraduate and graduate women can meet and discuss and coordinate activities of mutual interest. Currently there are few opportunities for undergraduate and graduate women to work together.

The Center will also serve as a channel for information and communication between students, faculty and staff. For example, through the Center, the Advisory Committee for Women Student's Interests, and other relevant groups will be able to make information accessible to students who cannot attend their meetings; they will also be able to get feedback. The new women's studies concentration will be able to advertise its program through the center.

Conclusions

The Women's Center will fill a crucial need of many women students in the M.I.T. community. As a place where women of many backgrounds and interests can gather and share a wide variety of information, the Center will significantly decrease the isolation and alienation experienced by many women students, enabling us to participate more fully and effectively at M.I.T. We look forward to the growth and success of this project.

Betsy Salkind

Janna Mintz

13 March 1982

Karen Webster -  
May 1982

## Program For a Women's Center on Campus:

### I. Coordination of the Women's organizations and groups on campus

#### A. centralize communication

1. compilation of meeting schedules and notes from meetings
2. central source for women's activities on campus and other Boston university campuses
3. communication with other centers in the Boston area
4. communication with national women's organizations

#### B. provide meeting rooms

1. meeting place for women's groups and activities from campus
2. location for women's seminars, lectures, etc from off campus women's groups; eventually removing this function from the Cheney Room

#### C. time-schedule

1. first-year

### II. Library and Resource

#### A. provide a lending library of women's literature

#### B. provide staff to help organize women's activities on campus

#### C. provide resources for women organizing activities (ie: copying machines, posters, mailings)

#### D. time-schedule

1. second-year

### III. Publication

#### A. newsletter containing:

1. schedule of women's events on campus, in the Boston area and in the national scene
2. information on women's services on campus, in the Boston area and in the national scene
3. articles pertaining to women's issues on campus, in the Boston area and in the national scene

B. career information

C. time-schedule

1. second/third years

IV. Seminars and Counseling

A. career counseling

B. peer counseling

C. seminars prepared by the staff of the center for the MIT and Boston women's community

D. hosting regional and national conferences on women's issues

E. time-schedule

1. second/third years

V. Staff

A. one full-time administrator (first year)

B. faculty spokesperson

C. student and volunteer staff (first year)

D. part-time staff (second/third years)

Women's Center Committee April 1982

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