

Women in Public Policy

Constitutionⁱ

I. Mission

Women in Public Policy (WIPP) facilitates committees and activities that promote advancement of girls and women through thoughtful consideration of public policies and their social implications. We seek to achieve these goals through professional development and alumni networking, academic development, advocacy and community outreach. Drawing from the broad academic disciplines at the University of Chicago, this student-run organization serves as a resource to provide an opportunity for a student voice for women. WIPP is open to all interested women and men and encourages students with diverse experiences to work together to create a world more balanced in opportunity.

II. Organization

A. Committees

WIPP is organized into three committees:

- Academic Development Committee
- Advocacy & Service Learning Committee
- Professional Development Committee

B. Membership

The membership of Women in Public Policy shall be open to all students, faculty and staff with an interest in the mission and goals of the group. For the purposes of voting, members include those present at a meeting for paper ballot decisions or on the Women in Public Policy listhost for electronic ballot decisions.

C. Structure

As laid out above, Women in Public Policy shall be organized into committees with at most two Co-Chairs per committee selected by a simple majority of each committee's members (*see Leadership and Elections, Section III*). In addition, there shall be an Executive Board of which all of the committee Chairs or Co-Chairs are members. The committee agendas will recognize the unique issues facing all women, including women of color, immigrant women, low-income women, lesbian and transgendered women. Each committee's goals and structures are as follows:

Academic Development Committee

The Academic Development Committee aims to further the advancement of women's issues in public policy through academic discussion by:

- Facilitating open consideration of policy issues relating to women by sponsoring brownbag discussions and guest speakers
- Developing new gender-related courses and materials for classroom use
- Facilitating gender-related research, case studies and fellowships

- Working with other University of Chicago departments, e.g. Center for Gender Studies, to coordinate other gender-related courses
- Organize female faculty in academia to share gender-related research and seek out female students interested in pursuing academic careers focusing on women's issues and policy

Advocacy & Community Outreach Committee

The Advocacy & Community Outreach Committee promotes the advancement of women's leadership by strengthening grassroots advocacy of women through the mobilization and by facilitating open dialogue of women's issues through seminars and community outreach with the following objectives in mind:

- Advancement of women's leadership in the public arena
- Monitor, review and inform the public on policies that impact women
- Facilitate grassroots organizing and advocacy around local, national and international issues that affect women
- Promote discussion on policies affecting women by hosting debates featuring political candidates, research scholars, local community organizers
- Educate the public on the positions of political leaders and local candidates running for office
- Mentorship of girls and women to promote personal development and self-esteem
- Empowerment for women in traditional and nontraditional institutions, ranging from the workplace to the home environment
- Facilitating partnerships and volunteer opportunities with Chicago-area social service and other non-profit organizations

Professional Development Committee

It is the goal of the Professional Development Committee to foster the career goals of women in public policy, through working relationships with University of Chicago alumni, prospective employers, and Harris School administration. The Committee seeks to:

- Provide mentoring for women interested in pursuing careers in public policy
- Create and maintain a database of employers with family-friendly work atmospheres
- Sponsor workshops and speakers that address professional issues facing women in public policy
- Work with the Harris School Career Services office to encourage employers that encourage women and minority applicants to recruit from the Harris School

Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of the Chairs or Co-Chairs from each of the aforementioned three committees. The role of the Executive Board is to provide cohesiveness in the activities of the committees by facilitating communication among the committee Chairs and Co-Chairs. Executive Board members are responsible for the following:

- Approval of Women in Public Policy events suggested by the committees
- Handling of administrative and financial matters for the group
- Oversight of the direction of Women in Public Policy and achievement of the mission

III. Leadership and Elections:

Each committee shall elect at most two Co-Chairs to represent their committee on the Executive Board. Nominations and elections shall take place during the first committee meeting of the calendar year for each committee. At the first general meeting of the calendar year following the committee elections, the members of Women in Public Policy shall nominate and elect no more than two of the newly elected Co-Chairs as Chair of Co-Chairs of Women in Public Policy by a simple majority vote. Elections may take place using paper or electronic ballots. After a special meeting between the newly elected Co-Chairs and the current Co-Chairs, the newly elected Co-Chairs shall assume the responsibilities of the Executive Board at the beginning of the Spring Quarter.

A. Follies

The Follies serve as the primary funding source for the Conference Fund. All proceeds should be used for the Conference Fund unless a special use is approved by the members of Women in Public Policy by a simple majority.

B. Conference Fund

While the Conference Fund is administered by the Chair or Co-Chair of Women in Public Policy, at least one Chair or Co-Chair from each committee should attend the quarterly Conference Fund Decision Committee meetings to allocate the funds. Those Chairs or Co-Chairs along with the Women in Public Policy Faculty Advisor constitute the Conference Fund Decision Committee and determine the allocation of funding based on the merits of the applications submitted.

In addition, the Chair or Co-Chairs may assume additional tasks as necessary to accomplish the mission of Women in Public Policy, such as but not limited to administration of the Conference Fund and production of the Follies.

IV. Meetings

There will be at least one general membership meeting per quarter.

There will be at least two meetings for each committee per month, schedules permitting.

The Executive Board shall meet prior to each general membership meeting, in addition to special meetings to approve events and funding, schedules permitting.

An annual planning meeting, open to all, shall be held in April following the election of the new Executive Board to plan events, discuss goals, and generate new ideas for the coming year.

VI. Amendments

Proposals for changes to this constitution may be presented by any Women in Public Policy member to the Executive Board. Provided the proposed change is in keeping with Women in Public Policy's mission, the Executive Board will present the change as a proposed amendment. Women in Public Policy members may ratify the amendment with a simple majority vote (*see Membership, Section II, Part B*).

ⁱ This version of the Women in Public Policy Constitution was ratified as amended by unanimous vote on Thursday, October 7, 2004.