1992

1992 General Correspondence.

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Dear Colleague:

In 1991 the AAAS Sub-Saharan Africa Program launched a series of meetings on SCIENCE IN AFRICA. Supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, these outreach efforts have been designed to bring critical science and science policy issues in Africa to the attention of scientists, educators, and development specialists in the US. Information on the AAAS SCIENCE IN AFRICA series is enclosed, for your reference.

During 1993 we will be holding two more meetings in this series. At the AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston in February, we are experimenting with a first ROUNDTABLE ON SCIENCE IN AFRICA, at which African students in the New England area will come together to network, share experiences, and address common concerns about maintaining professional currency after returning to their home countries.

In the spring of 1993 we will hold a second FORUM ON SCIENCE IN AFRICA in Washington, DC, this time focused on the achievements of African women scientists, the considerable constraints they face, and strategies for overcoming or reducing those hurdles.

To prepare for this FORUM, we are writing affiliates of AAAS to ascertain what activities your association undertakes, explicitly or implicitly, regarding women in the profession. Is there a separate committee or group with this mandate, and, if so, what are its terms of reference, activities, and funding sources? Do you maintain liaison with similar efforts outside the society, and, if so, please describe the linkages briefly.

Any information you can provide will be of considerable benefit to us in our planning endeavors. We are sensitive to the fact that some interventions carried out in the US setting may be appropriate models for African institutions; others will certainly not be. We appreciate any assistance you can provide, for we have already started organizing the spring FORUM,
Dear Lynne,

I want to congratulate you on the wonderful job you’ve done for the Division. It must have been difficult to take over in the middle of the year, pick up all the contacts, and go forward. But I’m really glad you did it. It was a pleasure meeting you, and spending some work time at the Board Meeting.

These are my follow ups from the meeting. My list of "to dos" had five items on them, some are done, some in the works, and one depends on you to take the first step.

1. Policy Committee (chair is me)-You said you’d find out who to contact on this one. Just send me the name, I’ll write or call, and get back to you and my committee.
2. Mona Danner contacted, but no answer yet on continuing as Chair of Student Affairs.
3. Nancy Jurik contacted, but no answer yet on continuing as Chair of Awards.
4. Division Work session at 1993 ASC Meetings
   undergraduate women- Mona Danner & Nancy Jurik (ASU at Tempe with graduate program in Justice Studies)
   untenured women- Nancy Wonder

Laura Fishman to get some information of why women of color stayed away this year and who to contact re graduate and untenured women of color.

5. Don’t forget about the commitment to nominate untenured women for the Board and to begin the process of changing the bylaws.

Sincerely,

Drew Humphries

PS I’m on sabbatical until January, my home address is
10 Nov 1992

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University of North Florida
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Dr. Lynne Goodstein
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University Park, PA 16802

Dear Chris and Lynne,

Recently I circulated a petition among colleagues asking the Canadian government to legalize the drug RU 486 and encourage the French manufacturer to get on with its manufacture. I realize that the Division on Women and Crime are not supposed to be political, but research on the CONSEQUENCES of failing to utilize contraceptive and abortion technology would certainly be within the scope of the division. Since my work is primarily in juvenile justice, I am particularly interested in strategies that reduce teenage pregnancies. If the Division has any interests in this direction keep me in mind.

In the meantime, the Division News might wish to note that the Centre for Criminological Research, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada T6G 2H4, has a discussion paper that may be of interest to some people. The title is: "The Consequences of Various Strategies Regarding Adolescent Abortion." It is basically a brief summary of some of the work which has been done and argues for certain policies. Single copies are free on request.

Cheers,

Jim Hackler
Date: December 7, 1992

To: Division on Women and Crime  
Executive Board, Committees and Task Forces

From: Lynne Goodstein

Now that the 1992 ASC meeting is behind us, I feel like I have time to catch my breath and reflect on the conversations and interactions I had with members of the division in the many planned and spontaneous meetings that occurred over the five days of the conference. I was amazed and awed by the level of division members' passion and commitment to work for women's equity and dignity in the ASC and in the discipline of criminology/criminal justice.

I would like to thank you all for the work that you have done over the past year and the work you have committed yourselves to doing over the next. During the past year the division was extremely successful in reaching a number of our goals; hopefully during this coming year we will be able to keep up the considerable momentum.

In this memo I would like to review some of the issues that were raised in the various meetings, caucuses, and informal conferences that I attended over the course of the conference. I will highlight goals achieved and those we have targeted for next year.

First of all, I am pleased to announce that the ASC board has approved a policy on sexual harassment that goes into effect immediately. The proposed wording has gone through several iterations since Carole Garrison initiated this process in early 1992. The final text approved by the board on Saturday is:

The American Society of Criminology is committed to equitable and professional treatment of all persons in all its activities. In particular, the American Society of Criminology condemns sexual harassment in any form. Sexual harassment includes: 1) unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors when those requests or advances are in any way associated with current or potential professional opportunities or decisions in ASC activities; or 2) conduct that creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment that interferes with an individual’s participation in ASC activities.

This text is quite close to wording that was proposed earlier this year by the division board and published in the Summer/Fall issue of DivisionNews. The two changes concern a substitution of "condemn" for
"prohibit" and a deletion of "sexualized conduct" from the second element of the definition.

Another of last year's goals was to involve the division more actively in setting the research agenda for the National Institute of Justice and to encourage NIJ to establish "inclusion" criteria. This past year the Division chair (Goodstein) has been sitting on the focus group organized by NIJ to advise on the development of research priorities for future funding. At the division's board meeting last week, there was also some discussion of ways to highlight an agenda for work on women and feminist criminology for the upcoming NIJ administration. Following a short meeting attended by Merry Morash, Lynne Goodstein, and Jane Foraker-Thompson, a decision was made to explore possible sources for funding for a small conference to establish priorities for criminological research on women and feminist issues. Merry, Jane and I will be in touch with each other during the year to follow up on this idea.

The energy generated at last year's meeting around sexual harassment issues resulted in two important pieces of written work by Betsy Stanko (thanks, Betsy!) that have received widespread publicity in society sponsored publications (ASC and ACJS). This format was repeated this year and again was thought to provide an important forum for sharing stories, learning, and offering support. We expect that this will become an annual event for as long as division members feel that it is needed.

The division luncheon was a great hit again this year, thanks to the hard work of Susan Krumholz and the brilliance of the speaker she located. There were well over one hundred tickets sold.

There was a great deal of discussion at the division meeting about the representation of panels on women and crime at the meetings this year and next. The fact that there is no section on feminist theory for the 1993 meetings is a major oversight. Kathy Daly has already contacted Delbert Elliot about this and he has agreed that an additional section under the theory heading will be added. Also, we are requesting that the sessions dealing with women and crime be distributed more evenly over the four days of panels, rather than bunched on the Wednesday and Saturday panels (as was the case this year).

Much discussion at the division meeting concerned the lack of strong representation of women on lists of fellows or ASC awards recipients. We will take a new approach this year, organizing many supporters to write letters rather than relying on the name of the division to carry so much weight. In addition, Jane Foraker-Thompson has agreed to work on developing a system for us to give our own awards to deserving criminologists. The members supported the idea of one or more Division on Women and Crime awards.

The criminalization of pregnancy issue has been dropped as a focus for task force work and in its place is a new task force for the inclusion of concerns regarding women and crime in discussions of public policy.

Several of us have made a commitment to moving forward on a revised curriculum guide to be ready for distribution (hopefully) at next year's
meeting. Chris Rasche and I had a meeting to develop an outline for a
call for papers for submissions to the guide. You will be hearing more
about this project in the near future.

Finally, I wanted to talk a bit about the matter of inclusiveness within
the division and the creation of an atmosphere without hierarchy and
"old-girl" networks. Several newer members who attended the division
meeting felt somewhat excluded from the happenings and felt that they
were not treated with as much of a welcoming spirit as they might have
liked. In addition, it was really bad timing that one of the major
panels on race and crime was held during our business meeting,
preventing many of our members with overlapping concerns from attending.
The room, while impressive, was the opposite of intimate and also not
the most conducive to interaction.

I deeply regret that some folks came away from our meeting with a less
than warm feeling. Women, minorities, and other underrepresented groups
all know what exclusion feels like, and we must simply keep working to
encourage participation by as diverse a group of people as possible and
avoid recreating exclusionary structures.

This issue was discussed at the division board meeting on Thursday
afternoon and we arrived at a plan that we hope will go a long way
towards active participation by all who are interested. First, next
year's business meeting will not be held at times that compete with
panels sessions. Second, we plan to hold two separate business meetings
of about an hour each, scheduled at least one day apart. In between, we
will plan a thematic panel session called something like "Critical
issues for women in the ASC" (Drew Humphries has agreed to work on this
session) which we hope will function like a workshop for groups
(committes, task forces, etc.) to meet and talk about issues among
themselves. The first meeting will provide the opportunity for those
who have been working on division business to report on their work and
also to set agendas for later work. The second meeting will enable the
committees and task forces to report on their work and give the division
chance to vote on items raised at meeting one or the thematic session.
Following the thematic session the division will host a reception (which
will be held instead of the luncheon) for all division members and
guests.

In addition, the executive committee voted that one of the executive
counselor positions open next year will be designated for an untenured
assistant professor (the other position could be for someone at any
rank).

I am confident that new members will find many ways to contribute to the
work of the division on women and crime. One of the feelings that I
came away from the meetings with was that there is still much work to be
done to make the ASC a society that fundamentally values diversity among
its members and within the scholarship presented. All of us -- young
and older, new and veteran members, women of color and non-minority
women -- are needed to work to transform the society into one in which
women and other underrepresented groups are no longer simply tolerated
but are valued as leaders.
In anticipation of next year's meeting I have considered sending a version of the last few paragraphs to all division members. I will attach a draft of this memo to this mailing and would appreciate any feedback you may have on the idea for the change in plans for division meetings next year or the memo itself.

Otherwise, let me wish you a good holiday season and new year. I will be on leave in the spring and will be working out of my home. My address there is:

State College, PA 16801