**Women’s Committee meeting, August 1, 2017**

We met outside on the lawn near Fenno: Erin Black, Leslie-Ann McGee, Julie Huber, Annie Bourbonnais (post-doc rep), Véronique LaCapra (taking notes)

Julie’s first meeting! We talked about Basecamp, and some of the issues the Women’s Committee has been discussing this year.

Gender-neutral bathrooms

Erin updated the group on our efforts to get gender-neutral bathrooms in every building at WHOI. Erin and Véronique met recently with Julia Westwater who has worked on this issue in the past. Erin emailed JP students and others to survey what kinds of bathrooms are in all the WHOI buildings.

Next step: Julia and Veronique will check out the remaining buildings. Then we can propose to HR which bathrooms could be made gender-neutral. Erin is suggesting also having signage in the lobbies of main buildings that shows where all the bathrooms are. Erin will share the Google spreadsheet with everyone on the committee.

Connecting WHOI groups working on diversity, equity, sustainability

On July 21, Erin emailed the heads of all the WHOI groups involved with diversity and equity to connect their leaders via email and propose that they meet once a year to foster partnerships. See separate document on Basecamp for details.

Linda Morse Porteous Award process

The Women’s Committee is responsible for choosing the Linda Morse Porteous awardee each year. We found out about that last minute this year from HR. <http://www.whoi.edu/website/womenscommittee/linda-morse-porteous-award>

SWMS Conference 2017

Annie: SWMS conference will be on November 3 in Redfield. Theme: “Swimming in Confidence: Declaring Your Scientific Authority.” Julie Huber mentioned that as a 2016 SWMS speaker, it would have been helpful to have more guidance about the desired content of talks in advance, since some speakers talked about their science, others more about their personal experience as a woman in science. SWMS is now officially a non-profit. Julie asked if SWMS is national. Former chair Sophie Chu is now at the University of Washington, and wants to start a SWMS chapter there. Right now, the group is more regional. SWMS is talking about having a booth at the Ocean Sciences meeting. Leslie-Ann mentioned MPOWIR, which is specific to physical oceanography. That could be a model for SWMS, in terms of offering mentoring.

Need for new members and officers

Erin talked about the idea of getting salary support for officers of the Women’s Committee—students can’t be compensated, but others could. GEPAC’s officers are compensated (we could ask Annette Govindarajan about this).

We could have two additional members right now. We have seven, including Annie, who is the post-doc rep, and we could have nine.

We also need a chair and vice chair—or co-chairs. Leslie-Ann volunteered to serve. Véronique asked to defer this discussion until all members are present (Ellen and Shannon were absent).

Véronique will email some of the engineers that Sherri suggested, to ask whether they’d be interested in joining the committee.