

**Commission on the Status of Women
TEAMS Conference Call
May 27, 2021 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Members Present

Deb Eslinger, Katie Ralston, Melissa Feist-Erickson, Linda Bata, Jennifer Turnbow

Commerce Staff

Sherri Frieze

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Deb Eslinger, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., welcoming members and new members, Jennifer Turnbow and Katie Ralston.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Missy and seconded by Linda to approve the July 16, 2020 Minutes. Motion carried.

CURRENT COUNCIL OVERVIEW

Changes in Council and Recommendations for New Members

- Linda Bata will end her term June 30, 2021.
- Deb Eslinger will end her term soon.
- Suggestions to have more members from southwest and east regions.
- Recommendations for former member Mylynn Tufte to rejoin.
- Roundtable discussions of women across state from a broader perspective.
- Recommendations for members put forth to the Governor's office.
- Past COO, Jodi Uecker was involved in the Strategic Plan
- Lack funding for the commission and the extra time needed by members to invest time into the commission
- Dissolution issue or is there work to be done
 - Issues during the pandemic, has shown that this commission is needed
 - The discussion on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) is bigger and bolder, the SOW could have a part in that.
 - Diversity needed to make all organizations stronger.
- Resources that are working to support women, Commission on Status of Women Faculty at NDSU.
 - What can we do on this commission to make a difference and being meaningful?
 - Survey was done in 2019 - 2020 to gain an understanding of the perception on women in leadership in ND.
 - Reponses were of the need for follow – up
 - Tap into those that may want to be members of the SOW

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- Should we reexamine the questions and resend the survey
- Inventory of all resources serving women and have a representative from different entities join in a roundtable discussion from across the state on pay equity, leadership, etc.-
- Possible partner with an entity and not reinvent the wheel.
- Not duplicate other's efforts
- What direction are we receiving from Commerce or Legislature?
 - Key Performance Indicators (KPI) is currently being finalized for next biennium and that may help with aligning this with Commerce.

NEXT STEPS

- Succession Planning – where to go from here, as Deb steps down.
- Resource Inventory – reassemble the list, with the thoughts to bring them contacts across ND together for a Q3 – Q4 roundtable.
- The need to have direction from the Governor's office, before moving forward with a roundtable discussion.
 - Continue working on Resource inventory – evaluate at next meeting to drive a roundtable discussion for Q4.
 - Possible ask for funding through Commerce budget .
 - Internal and external feedback from Commerce and Governor's office before next Q3 meeting. Possible discussion within the next 45 days from Katie Ralston.

OTHER

Deb thanked Linda for her service and passion to the commission , as well as her contribution to the Strategic Plan.

ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned unanimously at 2:53 p.m.