

NTSO Meeting

February 22nd, 2006

Call to Order:

Meeting began at 11:45.

Introductions of Guest Speaker: Dr. Bernice Strauss

New Business:

- We will add two new advisors to the organization for the 2006-2007 year.
- Dr. Ken Hartness, assistant professor of computer science, will be a new faculty advisor for the organization.
- Vinessa Mundroff, from career services, will be a co-advisor.
- Dr. Keri Rogers will remain as a secondary advisor to the organization.
- We will be holding an information booth in the LSC mall area for March, instead of doing a bake sale. More information will be sent over the listserv.
- A support group for the single parents was created from the online discussion. The group has a listserv and will be in the counseling center.

Old Business:

- No old business was discussed at the meeting.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Bernice Strauss from the Sam Center

- Dr. Strauss started the discussion talking about how women and/or men with children sometimes have fluctuating careers.
 - Dr. Strauss explained that women and/or men with children sometimes have careers that fluctuate or are non-linear.
 - As a woman graduates from college her career will peak for a period of time and then take a downward slope as she makes the decision to stay at home and parent; later her career will take an upward slope and peak again as she returns to the workforce.
 - The pattern that we discussed isn't the case for all women, and some women also make the decision to have both a career and parent.
 - Men who make the decision to stay at home and parent can also have fluctuating careers.
- We also talked about ways that we can make things easier as non-traditional students and parents.
 1. She said that we should decide on something that we enjoy doing and make it a point to do this on a regular basis, such as, renting movies, eating out for dinner, or playing a board game with family or friends.
 2. We talked about not being afraid to reach out for help and building friendships with other non-traditional students who are also parents.
 3. One example of reaching out for help would be a single parent sharing responsibility with another single parent. The parents might take turns cooking dinner for each other, giving rides, babysitting, etc.
 4. We also discussed the need for parents to learn relaxation, and to know when it is time to let go of an assignment and just turn it in.
 5. Dr. Strauss said that the members of NTSO are welcome to visit her.

Next Meeting: March 29th, 11:45 – 1:00 @ LSC Rm 319