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Guide to the University of Chicago Committee of the Council of the University Senate, Committee on University Women Records 1969-1978



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Descriptive Summary

Identifier	ICU.SPCL.COYW
Title	University of Chicago. Committee of the Council of the University Senate. Committee on University Women. Records
Date	1969-1978
Size	3.25 linear feet (7 boxes)
Repository	Special Collections Research Center University of Chicago Library 1100 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.
Abstract	The Committee on University Women (COUW or CUW) was established in 1969 to investigate "the status and opportunities open to academic women" at the University of Chicago. It was an appointed subcommittee of the Committee of the Council of the University Senate. This collection covers the chairmanships of Bernice Neugarten (1969-1970), Erica Reiner (1970-1974), and Janice Spofford (1974-1978). Materials include clippings, correspondence, statistical data, interviews and questionnaires, memoranda, publications, and reports.

Information on Use

Access

Series III: Restricted, contains GRE scores and student stipend information, restricted until 2049.

The remainder of the collection is open for research.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: University of Chicago. Committee of the Council of the University Senate. Committee on University Women. Records, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Historical Note

The Committee on University Women was appointed in 1969 to investigate "the status and opportunities open to academic women" on the University of Chicago campus. A subcommittee of the Committee of the Council of the University Senate, the COUW (also known as CUW) was established in response to controversy over the Department of Sociology's refusal to renew the contract of Assistant Professor Marlene Dixon.

Students claiming Dixon's politics and gender had prevented her reappointment staged a week-long sit-in at the administration buildings, but a review committee under the direction of Hanna Gray (later University President, 1978-1993) failed to reverse the decision. The administration sought to ease tensions on campus by appointing another committee, chaired by Bernice Neugarten of the Behavioral Science Department. After gathering extensive data from hearings, interviews, and surveys of both faculty and students, the Neugarten Committee published its report in May 1970. Their conclusions suggested the University of Chicago was no longer a place which encouraged female students or faculty, and called for a more intensive effort to recruit and retain women. The report disappointed some feminists on campus, who felt it a lukewarm effort to combat what they considered the entrenched sexist practices of University life.

After the Neugarten Report, the COUW continued its work under the direction of Erica Reiner of the Oriental Institute. She was succeeded in 1974 by Janice Spofford of the Biology Department. These committees continued to gather evidence, publish reports, and raise awareness about the issues facing women in the workforce.

Scope Note

This collection is divided into three series:

Series I: Neugarten Committee, 1969-1970, details the process of gathering data for the COUW's 1970 report on the status of women at the University of Chicago, produced under the direction of Bernice Neugarten. It contains clippings, correspondence, data, as well as interviews and questionnaires with responses. It includes copies and drafts of the 1970 report, and critiques of the report.

Series II: Reiner and Spofford Committees, 1970-1978, contains accounts, correspondence, data, publications, and reports generated and collected by the COUW. It covers the chairmanships of Erica Reiner (1970-1974) and Janice Spofford (1974-1978).

Series III: Restricted, contains GRE scores and student stipend information.

Related Resources

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html>

Neugarten, Bernice. Papers

Subject Headings

- Neugarten, Bernice Levin, 1916-
- Reiner, Erica, 1924-2005
- Spofford, Janice
- University of Chicago. Committee of the Council of the University Senate. Committee on University Women
- Women -- Education (Higher) -- United States

INVENTORY

Series I: Neugarten Committee, 1969-1970

This series details the process of gathering data for the COUW's 1970 report on the status of women at the University of Chicago, produced under the direction of Bernice Neugarten. It contains clippings, correspondence, data, as well as interviews and questionnaires with responses. It includes copies and drafts of the 1970 report, and critiques of the report. Of note are the responses given by female faculty to the Committee's inquiry about the central issues faced by women in academia. Also of note is a petition drafted by Sophonisba Breckenridge in the early 1920s, confronting the administration's record on employing women and awarding fellowships to female students.

Box 1

Folder 1-5

Admissions and enrollment questionnaires and data, 1969-1970

Box 1

Folder 6

Breckenridge, Sophonisba, "Petition to the President of the University," circa 1924-1925

Box 1

Folder 7

Chicago Maroon, clippings and correspondence, 1970

Box 1

Folder 8

COUW, memoranda, 1969-1970

Box 1

Folder 9

COUW, minutes, 1969

Box 1

Folder 10

Council of the University Senate, minutes, 1970

Box 2

Folder 1

Critiques of the COUW, undated

Box 2

Folder 2

Deans and department chairmen questionnaire, 1969

Box 2

Folder 3

Interviews, responses, and data, female faculty, 1969

Box 2

Folder 4

Interviews, responses, and data, female students, 1969

Box 2

Folder 5

Neugarten, Bernice, copy of the 1970 report with marginalia, circa 1970

Box 2

Folder 6-7

Neugarten, Bernice, correspondence, 1969-1971

Box 3

Folder 1

New University Conference, "In the Belly of the Monster: A Critique of the Neugarten Report," 1970

Box 3

Folder 2-3

Student questionnaires and responses, 1969-1970

Box 3

Folder 4

Women in academia, clippings, 1969-1971

Box 3

Folder 5

"Women in the University of Chicago: Report of the Committee on University Women," 1970

Box 3

Folder 6

"Women in the University of Chicago: Report of the Committee on University Women," draft, 1970

Series II: Reiner and Spofford Committees, 1970-1978

This series contains accounts, correspondence, data, publications, and reports generated and collected by the COUW. It covers the chairmanships of Erica Reiner (1970-1974) and Janice Spofford (1974-1978).

Box 3

Folder 7

Campus women's organizations, newsletters and notices, 1977-1978

Box 3

Folder 8

Chicago Maroon, clippings, 1975-1978

Box 4

Folder 1

COUW, agendas and minutes, 1974-1978

Box 4

Folder 2

COUW, correspondence and memoranda, 1974-1977

Box 4

Folder 3

COUW, invoices and receipts, circa 1977

Box 4

Folder 4-5

COUW, reports, 1970-1972, 1974, 1977

Box 4

Folder 6

Comptroller's Office, expense accounts, 1974-1978

Box 4

Folder 7

Connecticut Law Review, 1973

Box 4

Folder 8

"Equal Opportunity in Higher Education," conference proceedings, 1976

Box 4

Folder 9

Equity needs assessment questionnaire and job questionnaire, undated

Box 4

Folder 10

Harvard University, "Report on the Status of Women in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences," 1971

Box 4

Folder 11

Kreinberg, Nancy, "Comments About Their Work by Women in Science and Engineering," 1977

Box 5

Folder 1-2

List of female staff at the University of Chicago, circa 1972-1978

Box 5

Folder 3

Luncheon invitations, undated

Box 5

Folder 4

Michigan State University, anti-discrimination policy, 1970-1971

Box 5

Folder 5

National Academy of Sciences, "Research Issues in the Employment of Women," 1974

Box 5

Folder 6

National women's organizations, correspondence, 1974-1976

Box 5

Folder 7

Project on the Education and Status of Women, newsletters, 1974 -1977

Box 5

Folder 8-9

Spofford, Janice, incoming correspondence, 1972-1977

Box 5

Folder 10

Spofford, Janice, notes, undated

Box 5

Folder 11

Student members, correspondence, 1975

Box 6

Folder 1

University of Chicago School Review, "Women and Education" issue, 1972

Box 6

Folder 2

Women at the University of Chicago, statistical data, 1970-1977

Box 6

Folder 3

Women in academia, news and statistics, 1978

Series III: Restricted

This series contains GRE scores and student stipends that are restricted.

Box 7

Folder 1

GRE scores and student stipends, 1969