

November 23, 1981

TO: Members of PWL

FROM: Lynn Van Dyke *LVD*

We will not meet on November 30, as I suggested we might at our last meeting. Our next meeting (and the last of the semester) will be at noon on Monday, December 7, in Kirby Library.

One agenda item will be the designation of a co-director of PWL for next semester. Please nominate someone (for instance, yourself). For several reasons it seems wrong to function for another semester without a co-director.

The second agenda item requires some explanation. For at least the past two years, PWL has been concerned primarily with institutional matters. In the winter of 1978-79, we sent to the president a list of specific suggestions for making Lafayette a more humane institution by improving its policies toward women. Several of those suggestions have recently been endorsed and will apparently be implemented (I can provide details at our meeting if you wish).

While we certainly need to continue working for institutional change, I think we need also to address other concerns. Several new members have suggested that we need a broader vision than we've had this fall, and the commitment of older members seems to be waning. Besides, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Status of Women, constituted last semester, will be taking up some of our traditional concerns. I haven't heard particular suggestions for new directions, but I'd like to make my own proposal: that PWL sponsor a few colloquia this spring on women's studies and feminist scholarship. (Enclosed is a copy of a New York Times article on new developments in those areas.) Maybe a number of people on campus would be willing to gather and share information about feminist scholarship in particular fields. I hope and expect that male faculty will be among them, but it seems to me that PWL is a natural place to begin discussion of the idea.

Please give me your reactions to all this at the December 7 meeting.

Incidentally, the discussion with representatives of the Association of Lafayette Women scheduled for our November 16 meeting had to be postponed. I hope we can meet with members of ALW early next semester, because I still think it's important to plan a joint program with students.

*Discussion led to proposal  
for WS101*