

Hopes of a women's center

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CONTRIBUTOR

A Women's Issues Task Force was recently formed on campus, geared toward providing comprehensive resources for female students. The committee, which consists of students, staff and faculty, hopes to create a women's center on campus.

"We are hoping that the center will be in the (University) Union, but as of yet there are no definite plans." Women Act In Liberation (WAIL) coordinator and committee member Michele Lefler said.

Mostly student volunteers, with a staff or faculty member to oversee the facility, would run the center. Currently, the committee is addressing the basics of how the center will function and what objectives will be emphasized.

"(We need) a place where we could address womens' unique problems, issues and challenges throughout the school year. A place where the whole woman, not just the academic (one) would be addressed," associate professor of English Janet Ellerby said.

Many students said they agree that there is a need for a facility that caters specifically to women

"Female students deal with several issues that men do not. It is important for us to have a place where we can go and discuss these issues in a comfortable environment," senior Tanya Bull said.

While the Women's Issues Task Force was formed only recently, the idea for a women's center has been discussed for about 10 years. Dr. Kathleen Berkeley, chair of the history department, and Dr. Barbara Waxman of the English department originated the idea. Last year's women's issues teleconference brought attention to the importance of addressing women's needs on campus and the necessity for a center that focuses on these needs.

"There's always the 'no-space' excuse," Ellerby said. "There's definitely a limited amount of space available—but it's more a question of priorities."

For more information on the women's facilities or the Women's Issues Task Force, contact Ellerby at 962-3764.



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