Women's Committee: Overview

News:
As a reminder to WHOI employees and to those who have recently joined the community, women's lounges/lactation rooms are available for use on the Quissett Campus in Clark 325 and on the Village Campus through the 2nd floor Ladies washroom in the Redfield building. These rooms provide private, secure spaces to pump, nurse, or rest, and, to that end, are equipped with a couch, microwave, sink and small fridge. They can be reserved with an online scheduler (http://teamup.com/ks5a795f3982c1aa7/), or are otherwise available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Priority should always be given to breastfeeding, pumping, or expectant mothers.

In the late spring of 2016, the Women's Committee conducted an informal, anonymous survey of respondents use of, opinions on, and knowledge of the women's lounges/lactation rooms in Clark and Redfield. There were 113 total respondents and of those, 73% were aware of the lounges and 24% replied as having personally used the lounges. The majority of respondents that chose to leave detailed comments in the survey stated their positive support for having the rooms available on both campuses for a variety of uses. There was some call for more of these rooms in buildings besides Clark and Redfield, especially by those who used the rooms exclusively for lactation-related purposes. The Women’s Committee encourages those interested in additional rooms to contact their department heads and building administrators to pursue a building by building effort. Please contact the Women’s Committee directly (womens-committe@whoi.edu) regarding any additional questions about the survey.

Reminder: The WHOI Women’s Committee recently launched the WHOI Community Wiki (WHOIKI), an online hub for sharing non-scientific, everyday life information that is useful to both new employees and current employees. We welcome your suggestions for new content, which can be submitted through the contact/submit page. Please share this resource with new folks who have joined your department!

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About the WHOI Women's Committee
Established in 1973, the Women's Committee at WHOI is an elected committee responsible for considering matters of special concern to women. Its primary charge is to be a forum for the ideas and concerns of women associated with WHOI (see Charter below). Each member is charged to make herself aware of pertinent issues and to be accessible to the women around her, to better represent them in the committee.

The eight-member committee represents all women at the Institution: Joint Program Students, Post-docs, members of the Scientific, Technical, and Exempt Administrative Staffs, and members of the Graded Administrative and Research Staffs. The group meets monthly for discussion of current concerns and for planning occasional seminars and annual activities such as:

- Celebration of Women’s History Month in March
- Coordination and selection of the Linda Morse-Porteous Award
- Annual social event with guest speaker
- Coffee hours

The annual election for the two-year term takes place in the fall, and is announced through the WHOI Headlines and also the mailing list women@whoi.edu. The monthly meetings are open to all employees, and the minutes of the meetings are posted on the website.

Members of the Committee may be contacted by sending email to the Women's Committee mailing list at womens-committee@whoi.edu. Additionally, the mailing list women@whoi.edu can be used for sending messages to all female employees at the Institution. To have the list updated to include all eligible recent hires, contact Eric Cunningham at CIS.

Please note that both lists are for internal (WHOI) use only. Inquiries from outside the Institution should be directed to the Information Office at information@whoi.edu or to the Human Resources Office at hr@whoi.edu.

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