

April 2006

To: The IARU Chancellors, Vice Chancellors and Presidents

From: Alison Richard (Cambridge) and Richard Levin (Yale)

Re: Understanding Women in Universities Around the Globe

Dear colleagues,

We are delighted by the enthusiasm in Singapore for pursuing this project. We are consulting further with colleagues at our two universities, and with them are developing a work plan for this calendar year, with the goal of advancing this project substantially by the time we all reconvene in Australia next March. Given the addition of a research template to the proposal that was on the table in Singapore, we have attached a modestly revised version.

By 15 May 2006

If you are still interested in pursuing this project, please now identify a senior deputy who will lead the project for your campus. Dr Nancy Lane will head the project for Cambridge, and Dr Kim Bottomly for Yale. Together they will lead the initiative this year on behalf of the participating IARU universities, serving as co-chairs of the working group.

We would appreciate your sending to Nancy and Kim (contact details below) the name, title and contact information for your designee. That person, in turn, can work with you to formulate the appropriate campus group. For example, the senior deputy might in some campuses be supported by a director of affirmative action who has been involved in these issues for some years, while others may have an institutional research office which would be a natural member of a working group. We anticipate the senior deputy and a few members of each campus group will attend the convening conference at Cambridge in September (see below for details). Please let us know for reservation and planning purposes how many people from your institution may attend along with the information on your appointed senior deputy.

May – 15 June:

Each campus will work to assemble data in the format that has been developed. In an effort to move ahead we have created a template from which to conduct a baseline of initial inquiry. We recognize that this template will not cover the nuances of each University's unique circumstances. We hope that our gathering in September will provide an opportunity to discuss this more fully. **By 15 June, please submit your data to Kim Bottomly.**

15 June – August:

After receiving data from each of the participating universities, Yale is prepared to take the lead in consolidating the data and compiling the national reports, with an executive summary to be created.

September 8-9

There will be a workshop at Cambridge (see attached agenda). The Steering Committee will gather for 1.5 days of extensive sessions to review the work that has been completed and to consider and develop the work plan for the following year. We believe it beneficial to hold the workshop in the early autumn so there will be sufficient progress to make the workshop more than a preliminary orientation.

It is our hope that the effort undertaken by the workshop, coupled with the prospective work plan, will be sufficient to interest one or more major foundations to support the larger enterprise.

We hope each campus can absorb the cost of the initial data collection as well as the transportation and accommodation costs of sending their representative or representatives to Cambridge. Cambridge will provide all workshop facilities and hospitality (except that overnight accommodation will be at the cost of the participating institutions).

We would be grateful if you would send us an email indicating whether your university continues to be interested in participating in this IARU Project, and if so, who would be the senior deputy to lead the effort. Nancy Lane and Kim Bottomly will undertake the next steps.

Cambridge University

Yale University

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enc: Understanding Women in Universities Around the Globe (Proposal and Research Template)
Agenda for September Conference, Cambridge (draft)