Women and Leadership Archives
Ann Ida Gannon, BVM, Center for Women and Leadership
Loyola University Chicago

Feminist Forum, Records

Creator: Monica K. McLaughlin
Extent: .25 linear ft.
Location: 
Processor: Elizabeth A. Myers, July 1, 2003

Administration Information
Access Restrictions: Materials subject to restriction at the discretion of the archivist.
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Preferred Citation: Loyola University Chicago. Women and Leadership Archives. Feminist Forum Records. Box #. Folder #.
Provenance: Monica K. McLaughlin donated the records of the Feminist Forum to the Women and Leadership Archives on July 18, 2000. (WLA 2000.29)
Separations: None.
See Also: Women’s Studies Program Records, 1977-2001 at the WLA.

Administrative History
The Feminist Forum was founded in 1995 through the Women’s Studies Program at Loyola University Chicago. The first meeting was held on the lakeshore campus, September 19\textsuperscript{th}; graduate student Phoebe Stein served as leader for the night, and over 20 undergraduate students attended. The Feminist Forum, according to the application for new student organization, was founded in order to provide a supportive, safe, and open environment to discuss women and women’s issues. A pro-active organization, the Feminist Forum sought to bring speakers and hold events to raise awareness of the challenges in many women’s lives such as sexual violence, HIV and AIDS, discrimination, sexual harassment and awareness of systems of patriarchy.

Following the first meeting, the Feminist Forum created a constitution through which there were no officers, only equal members who delegated duties and shared authority. The Forum sponsored and co-sponsored numerous campus events, speakers, and counter protests, mainly on the lakeshore campus, including, Winona LaDuke, Kay Leigh Hagan, Dolores Huerta, Angela Davis, Take Back the Night, Radical Cheerleading, and the Vagina Monologues. Members have volunteered at Sarah’s Circle, a Chicago area “drop in” center for homeless/abused women. Occasionally, the Forum was, and still is, at the center of controversy and conflict with other campus organizations over ideological differences, mainly abortion. As of the 2003-2004 academic year, the Feminist Forum continues to operate at Loyola University Chicago.
Collection Overview
This collection consists of 1 box, spanning the years 1995 to 2002 and includes two series: general activities and V-Day activities. The former includes materials related to the organization, structure, budget, and special events sponsored by the Feminist Forum. The latter concerns special events planned on and for V-Day held at Loyola University Chicago from 1997 to 2002.

Series 1: General Activities, 1995-2002, n.d., Box 1
Consists of information on meetings/meeting minutes, membership lists, budget records, sponsored public speakers and events. Also included are six photographs of the members of Feminist Forum and Gloria Steinem, taken in 1999 when Steinem was a featured speaker.

Series 2: V-Day Activities, 1997-2002, n.d., Box 1
Includes records related to the V-Day national campus campaign, including an organizer’s kit, special flyers, play and performance transcripts, transcribed cheers and protest notes.

Subjects:
Feminist Forum
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University Chicago, Women’s Studies Program
Take Back the Night
Vagina Monologues
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**V-Day Activities, 1997-2002, n.d.**

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