

Union seeks 'sisterhood concepts' practice

Curriculum input key to new women's group

Women interested in forming an organization to act as a support group for University women and to influence the University's Women's Studies program met Tuesday to organize a Women's Studies student union.

"We learn the concepts of sisterhood and sharing, but the hierarchical structure of an academic environment make them hard to practice," says Denise Manion, one of the women who is helping organize the group.

She says she feels a student union would give women a chance to come together and share common problems and concerns.

"The union is still being planned and its directions will depend on what develops in our next few meetings," says Manion. A second organizational meeting is planned for today at 6 p.m. in the EMU, room to be posted.

Manion says she sees the union as providing students with a way to channel curriculum suggestions to the Women's Studies council, the body charged with administering the Women's Studies program.

"It's another way for students to have more of a voice in course offerings and the direction the program takes," she says.

Shauna Heckert, another supporter of the Women's Studies union, says she sees the union's function as being more than a curriculum evaluation body.

"Since Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary study, it's hard to keep informed about the program," she says. "Unless you're enrolled in a class, you really don't know what's going on." She says she hopes the union will help improve communication among women in the University.

Manion says the organization would be open to women from all areas of the University and community. "I would like to see it acting as a link between the community and the University," she says.

Since the Women's Studies program began in spring 1974, some 1,000 students have been enrolled in women's courses offered in economics, political science, sociology and other departments.

Manion says she hopes the union will help provide information about career opportunities and graduate programs as well as serve as a support base for Women's Studies discussion leaders.

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