

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA



The University Archives
and Records Center

A Guide to the
Trustees Council of Penn Women
Records, 1986 - 1998

8 Cubic ft.

UPT 101.22

Prepared by Kaiyi Chen

2001

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PROVENANCE

Transferred to the University Archives in 2000.

ARRANGEMENT

The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject.

AGENCY HISTORY

The Trustees Council of Penn Women (TCPW) was established in 1987 to strengthen the University's commitment to the advancement of women throughout the Penn community. Alvin V. Shoemaker, then chairman of the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, is generally credited with providing the institutional support necessary to assure the early success of the TCPW. In the years since its founding, the TCPW has enjoyed steady growth and accomplishment. By 2000 the TCPW had become a national network of Penn alumnae,

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numbering over 100 women, all of whom are distinguished in their chosen fields and share a deep interest in the well being of the University.

The University's Office of Alumni Relations has provided administrative support for the TCPW from its inception. The TCPW was initially organized into seven committees: membership, athletics, career planning, enriching the student experience, fund raising, institutional advancement for women, and sororities. The committee chairs, together with the TCPW chair, made up the Steering Committee, which, in late 1993, was re-named the Executive Committee. In the early 1990s, the committee structure was re-organized under six headings: Communications, Fundraising, Institutional Advancement, Leadership, Programming, and Student Life/Career Development. The activities of the Council's committees mirror those of existing offices within the University administration. This facilitates a broad set of working relationships between member of the TCPW and the University. General support and coordination has remained with the Office of Alumni Relations.

When the TCPW was established, those members who were alumnae but not University Trustees were designated Associate Trustees of the University. Those who were not alumnae were invited to serve as honorary members of the TCPW, but without Associate Trustees status. The Associate Trustees status was dropped in 1995.

Throughout its history the TCPW has worked consistently to increase the representation of women on University governing bodies, including the Trustees, Boards of Overseers, and other senior leadership positions at Penn. TCPW has also committed itself to funding faculty chairs for women, making direct appeals to its own membership and cultivating the interest of others. TCPW has also participated actively in the University's general fund-raising programs. TCPW has assisted in the evaluation and admission to Penn of promising high school students; has provided much-needed financial aid to qualified women students; and offers career counseling to students entering the work place. The TCPW has developed a series of regularly-scheduled programs, which include the Career Dinner, annual Spring and Fall Conferences,

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Faculty Tea, and sponsorship of events on various topics related to the promotion of women's interest.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection documents the activities and internal organization of the Trustees Council of Penn Women from its creation in 1987 through 1998.

The collection includes files on Council membership and chair selection, minutes and correspondence of both the Steering / Executive Committee and the standing committees, meeting files and information packets related to the Council's annual Spring and Fall Conferences, files of programs such as Career Dinner, Faculty Tea, Alumni Weekend, Tenth Anniversary celebration, etc., files concerning the publishing of the Council newsletter *Communique*, files of fund-raising activities, files of grants and awards sponsored by the Council, general administrative correspondence, and financial records.

The collection also includes non-manuscript material – two floppy disks, three videotapes, and a Wedgwood plate issued by the University in commemoration of its 200th anniversary.

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Non-Manuscript Material

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