

**Women's Faculty Association December General Meeting
December 12, 2008 Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 by Shivani Maffi, WFA President

Old Business:

No report at this time.

Committee Reports:

Public Relations Committee: No report at this time.

Career Development Committee: No report at this time.

Science Fair Committee: No report at this time.

WFA Leadership Awards Committee: No report at this time.

Program Committee: No report at this time.

Membership Committee: No report at this time.

New Business:

No new business at this time.

Program: "Networking: Building a Career Foundation".

A panel discussion was held with the following guest panelists:

Sue Naylor, PhD	Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Dept. of Cellular and Structural Biology
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Cheryl Lehman, PhD, RN	School of Nursing Dept. of Acute Nursing
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Bettie Sue Masters, PhD	Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Dept. of Biochemistry
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Laurel Copeland, PhD	School of Medicine Dept. of Psychiatry
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Each panelist delivered a 5-10 minute speech regarding their career development and how they developed contacts.

While each panelist had different experiences there was a common theme of developing symbiotic relationships in which you work hard and deliver so that when you need assistance with a paper or grant, your efforts will be reciprocated.

There was also discussion on the importance of developing a national reputation by attending national meetings, volunteering to serve on committees for national groups, and presenting your novel research at these meetings. These activities are essential to developing collaborations outside of the UTHSCSA.

A discussion was held regarding name changes for women. Women change their name when married or remarried so the discussion focused on how to handle publications and develop a national reputation when undergoing a name change. Some suggestions included using your maiden name when publishing, or keeping your name that you have published under when divorcing. It is a personal decision however it is a challenge to develop a national reputation when a name change is involved. Again, attending national meetings, presenting your novel research, and meeting outside collaborators is essential.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

The next meeting will be held January 9, 2009, and Dr. Robin Brey will be our guest speaker.