

## **2009-10 Program Planning: A Guide for Interesting & Productive Meetings**

Here are some suggestions for productive and interesting meetings for the following year! Your group should hold regular meetings and think strategically about your goals for the year in order to flourish and make a real difference on campus!

### September 7-11: Welcome Back Meeting

This meeting should be held at the beginning of each semester in order to re-energize previous members and welcome new members.

Topics to cover should include:

- FMLA/affiliate group and its connection to FMF
- Celebrate recent successes and discuss goals for the year!
- Outline activities for the semester ahead.
- Reminder to sign up for the group listserv
- Submit a budget to be eligible for university funding

### September 14-18: Campus Sexual Assault Policy

- Obtain a copy of your school's sexual assault policy and analyze it.
- If you find it adequate, plan an education campaign to make sure sexual assault victims know their rights.
- If it is not adequate, brainstorm ways to improve it and create a plan for the year.
- Set up a meeting with administrators to discuss changing the policy.

### September 21-25: Examining Mainstream Media through a Feminist Lens

- Watch and critique a film  
OR
- Bring in magazines and discuss the content.
- Think about:
  - Heteronormal views of our society
  - Racism
  - Classism
  - Body image
  - Division of labor
  - Creating your own alternative media sources with feminist messages!

### September 28-October 2: Spotlight on Mifepristone (RU486)

- September 28 is the anniversary of FDA's approval of Mifepristone!
- Talk about the use of mifepristone in abortion procedures, as well as the effects of mifepristone in the treatment of ovarian and uterine cancers.
- Discuss hosting a *Walk for Women's Lives* in your community.

October 5-9: National Coming Out Day

- National Coming Out Day is October 11!
- Discuss the crucial partnership between the feminist and LGBTQ communities. Heterosexism and homophobia are feminist issues.
- Invite members of the LGBTQ group on campus to your meeting to plan collaborative campaigns and events.

October 12-16: Love Your Body Day

- National Love Your Body Day is October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Have a party! Invite all your members to wear their pajamas and bring lots of snacks—no body snarking or complaining allowed. Watch a body-positive movie like *Real Women Have Curves* and just enjoy each other's company.

October 19-23: Global Women's and Human Rights

- Week of Action for U.S. and Global Reproductive Rights and Health
  - Host a campus forum on global family planning and women's rights.
  - Discuss maternal health and mortality in the U.S. and developing countries like Afghanistan (materials can be found at [feministcampus.org](http://feministcampus.org)).

October 26-30: Week of Action Against Crisis Pregnancy Centers: Don't Get Tricked, Get Treated!

- Learn about the dangers of CPCs (materials can be found at [feministcampus.org](http://feministcampus.org)).
- If there is a CPC near campus, find out if your health center refers students there.
- Write an op-ed for your student paper.
- Use a creative poster campaign to let students know about the dangers of CPCs.

November 2-6: EC Week of Action

- Celebrate the victory of Plan B over-the-counter for women 17 and older!
- Visit or call your campus health center and local stores and pharmacies to ensure Plan B is in stock, and work on an educational campaign to inform other students about the availability of Plan B.

November 9-13: Sweatshop Action Campaign

- Plan a fashion show with clothes made from sweatshop designer labels and sweat-free designers to educate your campus about the women and children who work for pennies per hour to make the clothes found in almost every campus and department store.
- Organize a *Stop Violence Against Women Workers in Juarez* rally.

November 16-20: Elimination of Violence Against Women

- International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is November 25<sup>th</sup>!
  - Discuss the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
  - Plan an event to commemorate victims and survivors of violence.
  - Educate your campus about the International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA) bill and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

November 23-27: Thanksgiving

November 30-December 4: Holiday Potluck and Discussion

- Have group members bring food items for a celebratory potluck dinner.
- Talk about your achievements as a group over the past semester, and your plans for the next semester.

January 25-29: Welcome Back Meeting & Spring Semester Kick-off!

This meeting should be held at the beginning of each semester in order to re-energize previous members and welcome new members. Topics to cover should include:

- Outline activities for the semester ahead.
- Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* (January 22<sup>nd</sup>)
  - Show & discuss “Never Go Back: The Threat to Legal Abortion”
  - Plan a hanger action – What women choose when they have no choice
  - Volunteer with your local abortion clinic as clinic escorts

February 1-5: Feminism is for everybody

- February is Black History Month!
- Invite multicultural groups from your campus to discuss black feminism and Chicana feminism.
- Collaborate on future events and campaigns

February 8-12: Feminist Leadership Week

- Show a movie portraying women in leadership roles.
  - “Iron Jawed Angels”
  - “Sisters of ‘77”
  - “North Country”
- Prepare for upcoming student government elections. Encourage members of the group to run and support their campaign.

- If a pro-woman, feminist line up is already assembled, announce an endorsement and work as support staff to help get these candidates elected.

#### February 15-19: V-Day Events!

- Plan or participate in V-Day events on your campus.
- Take the *Vagina Monologues* to the next level—hold a discussion on the different forms of violence against women such as sex trafficking, sexual assault, etc.

#### February 22-26: National Eating Disorder Awareness Week

- Hold a walk and have walkers gather sponsorship money to donate to the National Eating Disorder Association.
- Screen the HBO documentary “Thin” or movies with messages on body image
- Chalk on campus with eating disorder facts

#### March 1-5: Women’s History Month

- Invite faculty members to discuss powerful women throughout history.
- Host a feminist networking event. Invite administrators, faculty, staff, students, and community organizations to participate.
- Thank a Feminist: brainstorm reasons to thank feminists and post them as fliers around campus! Thank a Feminist For:
  - The right to vote (19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, 1920)
  - The right to own credit cards (Equal Credit Act of 1975)
  - The right to wear pants (Feminists sued department stores in the 1970s; Carol Moseley Braun was the first woman to wear pants on the Senate floor in 1992; female attorneys are still prohibited to wear pants on the floor of the Supreme Court)
  - The right to receive an equal education (Education Amendments of 1972)
  - The right to a safe and legal abortion (Roe v. Wade, 1973)

#### March 8-12: National Day of Appreciation for Abortion Providers

- Make cards and thank you notes to show appreciation for abortion providers. Send them to clinics across the country or hand deliver them to local clinics.
- Fundraise for local clinics and encourage Picket-a-Protester donations

- AND/OR -

- International Women’s Day is March 8! Cosponsor programs with international students’ campus groups.

#### March 15-19: National Young Feminists’ Leadership Conference Preparation

- Prepare to travel to Washington, DC for the National Conference on March 20 and 21.

- OR -

- If your group is unable to attend the conference, make plans to hold your own feminist forum on campus.

#### March 22-26: Feminism and Media

- Hang up posters with positive vs. negative representation of women.
- Spread awareness about TV/movies/companies that objectify women.
- Celebrate feminist artists.
- Hold an art show featuring local and prominent feminist artists.
- Have a poetry reading of feminist poets.
- Plan a dance party with a focus on feminist music.
- Hold a feminist book swap or book drive.

#### March 29-April 2: Group Elections

- Decide which positions are necessary for your group (i.e. President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.)
- Decide on and implement an election process.
- Spend the following weeks training new members of the executive board/executive committee.

#### April 5-9: Sexual Assault Awareness

- Plan a *Take Back the Night* event
  - Host a public speaker to discuss how to improve sexual assault prevention on your campus.
  - Organize a march and speakout on your campus on violence against women.
  - Contact a local women's shelter to co-sponsor the events.

#### April 12-16: National Crisis Pregnancy Center (CPC) Protest Day

- Protest outside your local CPC.
- Put up posters informing people about CPCs.
- Make sure your school doesn't refer students to CPCs.

#### April 19-23: Eco-Feminism

- Invite an Environmental Science professor and/or a Women's Studies/Gender Studies professor to discuss eco-feminism in honor of Earth Day (April 22<sup>nd</sup>).
- Hold fun, educational events to raise awareness about women, water access, and climate change (material available on [feministcampus.org](http://feministcampus.org)).

April 26-30: Pay Equity

- Plan a Wage Gap Bake Sale. Have group members bake goodies, charge men \$1.00, white women \$0.76, African American women \$0.66 and Hispanic women \$0.54. Hand out information explaining that these rates are equal to the wage gap in the U.S.

May 3-7: FEMMIES!!!!!!

- Celebrate the end of the year in style! Host a Femmies ceremony where each member of the group gets an award for all of their hard work throughout the year.
- Induct the new officers for the upcoming school year.
- **HAVE FUN AND CELEBRATE ALL YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS!**