

Strengthening Your Feminist Student Group

The Feminist Majority Foundation National Collegiate Global Women's and Human Rights Conference, is just the first step towards building support to end poverty, sweatshops, and violence against women. This fall we encourage your group to implement new programs that connect global issues and foster collaboration between your group and other student activists on campus.

To plan and implement successful programs and events your group must be strong and organized. This includes having a strong leadership and a reliable dedicated membership.

This section includes ideas and tips for feminist programming, both domestic and global. Tips include how to recruit new members, how to keep members active, how to get student government financial and political support, as well as how to get press coverage for successful event promotion.

2005 Fall Semester Action Calendar

August-September: *Global Women's and Human Rights Regional Conferences*

The National Collegiate Global Women's and Human Rights Conference is just the beginning of the efforts by FMF's Global Program to connect the dots between women's rights and other social justice movements. Begin preparations at the very beginning of the Fall 2005 semester to attend the Global Women's and Human Rights Regional Conference in your area.

Preparations would include starting any fundraising efforts that you will need to do in order to attend, as well as recruiting members of your group and other student activists on campus to attend. Also check www.feministcampus.org in the coming months for a downloadable action kit and more information about these regional conferences!

September: *Community Clean-Up Campaign*

Event Idea: Identify a local forest area or park and get involved in preserving it! These efforts are often organized by members of the community and are starving for student involvement, so this action can also be a good way to become involved with the greater community outside of your campus.

Prepare: Research the area or park and find out what preservation efforts are already taking place. Perhaps call the local parks service and schedule a guided tour for you group in order to become acquainted with the specific needs of the park or forest.

Plan & Recruit: Invite a member of the parks service or of the community preservation effort to campus to give a talk about the park and use the event to spread awareness as well as recruit people to join your efforts.

Organize: Put together a clean-up day with your group and students recruited from your event. Give everyone a trash bag and assign them a type of trash (e.g. paper, plastic, glass, etc.) to pick up so that you can then take the separated debris to a recycling center instead of the dump.

Stay Involved: Attend local public hearings about the park or forest area so that you stay aware of the issues affecting it.

Get Creative! Raise money for lawsuits or other actions in your community to block development that is destructive to the park or forest by selling t-shirts, holding a concert or other event and charging admission, or having an "organic goodies" bake sale!

Event Idea: Create a green campus! Do you live somewhere that doesn't have a park or forest you can work on? No problem! Environmental action can also start on campus.

Prepare: Identify ways that your college or university can cut down on waste and improve energy efficiency. One way to do this is by interviewing staff members who work in the campus recycling center, dining halls, or maintenance department.

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Plan & Recruit: Once you have identified the issue or issues you would like to work on, plan an event or educational campaign to spread awareness on campus. Make a flyer or factsheet that you can hand out at your event or hang up around campus, informing people of the problem and possible solutions.

Organize: Set up appointments with members of the administration who are in positions to affect college policy in the area that you are focusing on. Talk to them about your concerns and try to get them to commit to a timeline for addressing the issue.

Stay Involved: Continue to spread awareness and hold events while you are meeting with the administration so that they see that your issue has student support, this will pressure them to come up with a solution. If the student body doesn't care about the issue, why should they?

Need more help? Order *Campus Ecology*, a step-by-step guide to environmental actions on campus, for \$10 from the Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC), www.seac.org. Also check out www.campusaction.net for more Environmental Action Ideas!

October: *National Young Women's Day of Action—Oct. 21st*

National Young Women's Day of Action was begun to commemorate Rosie Jiménez, the first known victim of the Hyde Amendment, which blocks federal funding for abortions for poor women. Rosie Jiménez was a 27-year-old single mother to a five-year old daughter. Too poor to afford a private clinic, and unwilling to sacrifice her college education, she had a back-alley abortion and died from complications in 1977.

National Young Women's Day of Action is meant to remind us that, while abortion may be technically legal, it is being chipped away at little by little and most women in this country do not have access to safe and legal abortion. In fact 87% of all U.S. counties and 97% of all rural U.S. counties have **no abortion provider**.

Prepare: You have all month to prepare for the National Young Women's Day of Action! Download, read and distribute FMF's *Save Roe Action Kit* from www.nevergoback.org. This kit is full of information about abortion and reproductive rights, as well as action ideas that you can use on your campus.

Plan & Recruit: A week or two before National Young Women's Day of Action, set up an informational table in a high traffic area with information from the *Save Roe* kit, information on the Hyde Amendment (which can be found on the ACLU's website at www.aclu.org), as well as FMF's *Save Roe* petition or another petition or letter of your choosing that deals with reproductive rights and the issue of abortion. Have a sign-up sheet where people who are interested in the issue can volunteer to participate in the Day of Action.

Organize: Hold a fundraiser for an abortion clinic or fund. Collaborate with other progressive groups and local restaurants or campus hangouts to host a fundraiser for your local clinic or abortion fund.

- Ask a local restaurant owner to let you host an event on a night that would not ordinarily be very busy.
 - Progressive owners might donate food or drinks; for example, by offering free appetizers or a two-for-one drink special. In return, the restaurant gets more business than usual.
 - Ask local bands or DJs to donate their time for the event.
- Charge a cover at the door (\$5-10), and donate proceeds to your local clinic. If there is not a clinic in your area, contact the National Network for Abortion Funds at 413-559-5645 to locate a local fund.

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Don't forget to publicize your event! Flyer and chalk on campus, write a press release and ask your university paper to cover the event, and make announcements on student organization listservs and in meetings.

The *Save Roe* Action Kit also has ideas for other actions that you could take, including holding a rally or speak-out, or hosting a pro-choice film festival.

Stay Involved: Show appreciation to your local abortion provider throughout the year. Locate the abortion provider nearest you, and have your group send them notes every so often, thanking them for their efforts to provide complete reproductive healthcare services for women in your area. If you do not have an abortion provider in your area, call local OB/GYNs and hospitals and ask them why they do not offer abortion services.

November & December: *16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence—Nov. 25th-Dec. 10th*

Event Idea: Participate in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. Participants chose the dates, November 25, International Day Against Violence Against Women and December 10, International Human Rights Day, in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasize that such violence is a violation of human rights. This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including December 1, which is World AIDS Day, and December 6, which marks the Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre.

Prepare: Contact the Center for Women's Global Leadership to receive a **free** copy of the Take Action Kit for the 16 Days Campaign, you can also download a kit from the 16 Days website at <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/home.html>. The action kit includes:

- a campaign profile and a description of dates
- a list of participating organizations and countries
- a bibliography and resource list
- a list of suggested activities
- a current campaign announcement
- supplemental information relevant to this year's theme

Need More Help? For more information about the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, please contact: Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 160 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8555 USA; ph: (1-732) 932-8782; fax: (1-732) 932-1180; e-mail: cwgl@igc.org, website: <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu>.

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December: *International Human Rights Day—Dec. 10*

Event Idea: Movie Night & 'Taste the World' desert sampler. This event will help to raise awareness about Human Rights globally. Show a movie that captures the injustices that are committed against peoples basic human rights, and then serve an international dessert followed by a discussion.

Prepare: Example movies you could screen include, FMF's new movie *the global majority...again*, which is on the interconnectedness of progressive issues, or *Hotel Rwanda*, which depicts a true story of a struggle between two ethnic groups that erupts into genocide during the 1990s after the president is assassinated. This is a good topic to also start a discussion on the current situation in Darfur or Guatemala.

Plan & Recruit: Work together with any international or ethnic clubs on campus or clubs dedicated to world peace to sponsor this event. Possible Groups are the Multicultural Club, Hispanic, Chinese, or African Student Associations (just to name a few), Baha'i Student Association, Students for Global Solutions, etc.

Organize: Invite a few clubs to join in the sponsorship of the event. Type up an outline of the event night and responsibilities it would entail to inform the other club leaders and encourage their participation.

- I. Pick a date and time around December 10th for the event
- II. Delegate responsibilities among the groups to bring the necessities like movie, table and chairs, plates, utensils, etc. Also decide which countries or areas each group will represent by their choice of desert or sample dish to share.
- III. Reserve space that can accommodate a movie showing
- IV. Promote the event at least 2 wks prior to the night
- V. A small fee could be charged for admittance to help offset the cost of supplies. The money could be collected together and then split evenly between the groups.

Get Creative! After the movie, people can pick out a desert to try while a discussion should be held about fundamental human rights and how they are either denied or upheld in various countries. Someone from the group who made the desert should share a little bit of info about the human rights pertaining to that country or region

Here are some suggested recipes from around the world as well as a suggested topic.

- *Flan*: a creamy custard baked with a caramel coating. Traditional desert served in Spain, Portugal and Mexico.

<http://dessert.allrecipes.com/az/lmndLchFln.asp>

A group of indigenous people who live in the south of Mexico have a long history of being discriminated against. Chiapas, the region in which they live, is the poorest region of Mexico. Children were denied schooling, families were denied health care, and the government although it has recognized the problem, failed to respond adequately.

- *Algerian Almond Cookies*:

<http://www.1worldrecipes.com/recipe.asp?r=902>

Although this recipe comes from Algeria in the north of Africa, the Sub-Saharan is where the most poverty stricken area of the world. This area is where the HIV/AIDS pandemic is occurring.

Green Tea Ice Cream: a refreshing ice cream that can be found in a local grocery store, or Asian market In Thailand, Burmese refugees are being forced to move to camps along the Burmese border, which undermines the promotion of human rights.

- *Middle Eastern Coconut Cake*: this easy to bake cake is traditional to the Jordanian/Palestinian area.

<http://www.recipezaar.com/78772>

In Jordan, women are being murdered by male family members, who claim they are defending the 'family honor.' Actions qualified as dishonoring the family could be talking to a male not of family relation, marry without family approval, or have pre-marital sex.



FMLA/ Affiliate Recruitment

What is Recruitment?

Recruitment is the ongoing process of inviting new people to join and participate as members of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance on campus. Feminist Majority Leadership Alliances generate new student participation through a recruitment process that includes publicity, announcements, visibility events, general meetings, and a membership form process.

Why Recruit?

Recruitment helps build a movement of committed young feminist activists. Actively recruiting activists generates large numbers of new participants, enabling the FMLA to become a large and influential group on campus. With more members, the FMLA can take on **more** and **bigger actions**, generate **more publicity**, and **access more funding!** Recruitment builds **diversity** in the group and encourages participation from enthusiastic and dedicated students, bringing **fresh ideas** and **energy** to the FMLA.

Who Should the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance Recruit?

- Committed feminists who feel comfortable advocating *all* of FMF's principles (as delineated in the constitution)
- Students who represent a diversity of backgrounds, interests, experiences, talents, and academic pursuits
- Students from each academic year
- Students with progressive organizing and leadership experience
- Students who are new to feminist activism but wish to enhance their organizing and leadership experience
- Students who are willing to invest their time in the FMLA as an extracurricular priority

Recruitment Chair/Coordinator

Every member of the FMLA is responsible for recruiting new members to the group. In addition, electing a Recruitment Chair to the Executive Committee ensures that recruitment is an ongoing process in the group, increasing participation in the Leadership Alliance.

The Recruitment Chair is an elected leadership position recommended for a second-year student. S/he is responsible for consistent recruitment, planning events to increase membership throughout the year, working with faculty, staff, and Campus Organizers on strategies to improve recruitment, and setting ongoing recruitment goals. The Recruitment Chair plans events with the Equality Chair to ensure a diverse membership. This person coordinates a major membership drive at the start of each Fall and Spring semester and is responsible for collecting the Membership Forms and maintaining copies for group use.

Timeline for Recruitment

The entire recruitment process should be conducted within the first 4 weeks of the semester so that new participants can become active almost immediately.

Begin the first semester recruitment drive during the first two weeks of school. Include active involvement in first-year orientation, registration, and dorm move-in. Each of these activities requires advanced planning. The Recruitment Chair should begin to organize Fall recruitment at the end of the preceding Spring semester.

The second recruitment phase should coincide with the beginning of the second semester. If your campus is on the quarter or trimester system, plan shorter recruitment phases at the beginning of each term.

Each recruitment period will include:

Visibility and Publicity: Leadership Alliance participants will table, put up flyers, make class announcements, and many other strategies to raise awareness about the FMLA on campus.

General Interest Meeting: During this open meeting, the Executive Committee or the Launching Members present the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance program and the *Choices* campaign, and distribute the Membership Forms.

Membership Forms: New FMLA members should fill out the Membership Forms in hardcopy or online at www.feministcampus.org. New members return them to the Recruitment Chair before a pre-determined deadline. The Recruitment Chair sends the Membership Forms to the Campus Team who then contacts the new member to welcome them to the program and sends them a Welcome Packet and a Study and Action Manual (SAM). Only students who are comfortable advocating FMF's mission and principles may receive new membership benefits and participate as an active member of the group.

Recruitment Strategies and Tips

Student Activities Fair/ Orientation

First-year orientation is key! Group involvement requires advanced planning--find out as early in the year as possible how the FMLA can participate.

Faculty and Staff Outreach

Utilize faculty to help you recruit students and spread the word! Speak with faculty senates and committees, flyer all faculty mailboxes, and ask professors to make an announcement about the FMLA general meeting in classes and over departmental listservs.

Tabling

Tabling is among the most effective recruitment strategies. Interact with and approach people walking by! An effective table is colorful, interactive, and informative. Try having candy at the table, showing a video, or having a petition to sign. Table at all progressive events, in the student union, the activities fair, and first-year orientation.

Classroom Announcements

Ask professors for five minutes of class time to announce the meetings of the FMLA, pass around a sign-up sheet, and hand out flyers. Approach your own professors, as well as professors in Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, Queer Studies, Political Science, other progressive disciplines, and professors who teach large, introductory lectures. Every member should approach their individual professors about making announcements.

Follow-up Phone Calls and E-mails

Phone calls are not effective unless you've spoken with a live person—not a machine. E-mails are effective if the person has replied back to you—so always ask for a confirmation of receipt. Remember to collect contact information at every FMLA event or table, and follow-up with interested people during the recruitment drive and before events.

Newspaper Ads, Interviews, and Editorials

Campus media coverage is an excellent form of publicity and it is often free! Ask local and campus papers to do an advance story on the Leadership Alliance, an interview with the FMLA spokesperson, or to cover one of your major visibility events. Contact a Campus Organizer to prepare for a press interview. Use public service announcements on campus radio and television stations and place an ad in the campus newspaper.

Contacting Campus Groups and Clubs

Attend other progressive group meetings and events (including sororities), flyer student government mailboxes, and contact key campus leaders to advertise for the general meeting. Ask them to send out details about the FMLA meeting over their listservs and announce it at their meetings. Organize collaborative events.

Postering/ Flyering/ Chalking

Great flyering locations include bathroom stalls, women's locker rooms, public phones, library cubicles, computer clusters, community bookstores, Women's Center, Queer Center, Multi-Cultural Center, health center, departmental bulletin boards and progressive hangouts. Chalk general meeting announcements in high-traffic areas around campus.



Membership Retention

Why spend time on RETENTION?

After recruitment, the next task is keeping new members involved! With very little funding for activist work, people are our most valuable resource. Our movement is as strong as our members! Retaining members allows the FMLA to be pro-active, preventing the group from having to repeat recruitment efforts that take time away from other valuable projects and events.

Welcome all new members!

Welcome new members and take time for introductions between new and current FMLA members. Give new members a brief history of the FMLA (founding history and past projects), especially if they join the group late in the semester. Provide all necessary materials and tell them what the group is working on, what happened in the last meeting, and the overall goals for the semester. Make sure they know how they can become active in the FMLA right away.

During general meetings and events, current FMLA members should try to go out of their way NOT to talk to each other, but instead to talk to new members. Create a "buddy system" where current FMLA members are each responsible for one or more new members. "Buddies" should call new members to remind them about meetings, make sure they have materials, and put them in contact with a Campus Organizer.

Use the Membership Form

The Membership Form contains contact information and information about individual activists' interests. Use the Membership Form to learn about members' interests, strengths, and skills, and look for ways they can get involved in the group.

Get Active Immediately!

Include a small, pre-planned action for the First General Meeting (e.g., a letter-writing campaign, or a "Did You Know?" campaign). Getting new members active and involved immediately shows them that their help is needed.

In Case You Miss a Meeting...

Have alternative forms of communication set in place for members who miss an occasional meeting. Create a listserv or post meeting minutes to the FMLA website.

Accommodate Members' Special Needs

Commuters, members with disabilities, members with children, and working students may have different scheduling needs. Try to schedule a meeting time and place that accommodates diverse members' needs. Keep the meeting time and location consistent.

Have Fun!!

Take time out to have fun and get to know each other. Go on camping trips, plan retreats, have a movie night, potlucks, etc.

Abide by the Decision-Making Process

Establish a process by which all decisions are made as a group. Meeting facilitators should make a conscious effort to let other members participate fully in the meetings. Let people volunteer to create, plan, or participate in events the FMLA is sponsoring.



Publicity and Outreach

Use publicity and outreach to raise awareness about the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, to stir up interest in an issue, or to build a crowd for an event. Greater publicity and outreach results in more people attending meetings and events. Organized publicity and outreach is essential to building an active feminist community on your campus.

- Always list the WHO, WHAT, WHEN, and WHERE clearly on posters and flyers.
- Create highly visible color or laser quality flyers that stand out from other ads on campus.
- Research university posting policies *before* hanging flyers. Some campuses require stamped approval or a specific kind of tape. Find out when campus staff removes flyers, and plan for a second "cycle" of flyering.
- Divide sections of the campus among group members to blanket the campus with flyers.
Locations to flyer:

- All major academic buildings
- Computer labs
- Student Unions and Cafeterias
- Libraries
- Women's Center
- Cultural Centers
- Administrative buildings
- Outdoor surfaces with high student traffic
- Residence Hall
- Bathroom stalls and locker rooms
- Coalition group meetings
- Related events on campus
- Progressive book stores
- Restaurants/bars frequented by students
- Coffee houses
- Clubs
- Gyms
- Movie theaters
- Shopping districts
- Telephone poles
- Laundromats
- Bus stops

Hanging a Banner

Make a large banner to hang in a high traffic area (example, Student Union). Hang the banner in a spot clearly visible from a distance. Request permission to hang the banner several weeks in advance, depending on your school's regulations. Hang the banner at least a week before your event.

Tabling

Before a major event, table in a high traffic area on campus. While tabling, interact with people passing by. Stand in front of the table, handing out flyers or inviting people to sign petitions. Have event flyers, as well as information about the FMLA and FMF at the table. Include a sign-up sheet for people who want to volunteer for the event or get involved with the FMLA.

Attracting Press Coverage

Radio stations are required to make public service announcements free of charge, usually twice an hour. Take advantage of this service by contacting your campus and local radio stations to make an announcement.

In addition, consider asking campus and local papers to print an advance story on the event. Invite them to the event, and encourage them to bring a photographer. Write a press release (see sample) including details about the Who, What, Where, When, and Why of your event.

Don't be afraid to contact national media as well. If your school is getting coverage on a national issue (i.e., Harvard president Larry Summers' recent comments on women's abilities in math and science), contact national media to voice your opinion on the issue.

Class Announcements

Have FMLA and Faculty Team members make announcements in classes about an event. Distribute flyers that include event details and contact information. Make announcements to progressive classes and large Intro classes.

Pass around a sign-up sheet and make follow-up phone calls to people who sign up. Ask faculty members in relevant departments to offer extra credit to students who attend the event or to make attending the event mandatory for their classes.

Email and Listservs

Email announcements are most effective combined with other publicity and outreach efforts. Send emails to listservs for progressive organizations, women's studies, ethnic studies, and gay and lesbian studies. Keep the email brief.

Outreach on Campus

Outreach to other progressive groups on campus. Inform groups about your upcoming event, and ask them to support the event through co-sponsorship. Coalition and co-sponsorship will draw a more diverse audience representative of many groups. Places to outreach on campus include...

- Other feminist groups
- Women's Center
- Progressive groups
- Multicultural organizations
- Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Groups
- Environmental groups
- Women's sports teams
- Community Service organizations
- Student Government
- Sororities
- Faculty Senate/Feminist Faculty
- Dean of Students
- Student Activities Director

Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance

Working for Women's Equality

January 2005

Dear Editor,

On January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court delivered a momentous decision in *Roe v. Wade*, affirming a woman's right to control her own reproductive fate, including her right to terminate an unwanted pregnancy. Prior to *Roe v. Wade*, some 1.2 million women resorted to illegal abortions annually in the U.S., and thousands of those women died from botched, illegal abortions each year.

Since 1973, an anti-choice, right-wing movement has systematically attacked and impeded a woman's right to a safe, legal, and accessible abortion. In the last twenty-five years, the U.S. Congress and state legislators, of whom 78% are men, passed hundreds of laws that have eroded and severely restricted full access to safe, legal abortion, prenatal care, and family planning. These laws, which disproportionately affect young women, women of color, and low income women, force an untold number of women to resort to dangerous measures.

Anti-choice and anti-women policies do not just affect women in the U.S. but women worldwide. For the last three years the U.S. has refused to release critical family planning funds to the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) on the grounds its program in China promotes abortion, despite a subsequent investigation by the State Department that found this allegation to be false. In 2001 President Bush re-instituted the Global Gag Rule, which prohibits U.S. support of family planning organizations internationally that use their own separate funding to provide abortion services, counseling or referrals for abortion services, to advocate for legalizing abortion in their country, or even to speak about abortion. The costs to women and their families of these ill-conceived international family planning policies are enormous. Worldwide, according to the World Health Organization, an estimated 80,000 women and girls die every year due to complications from illegal and unsafe abortions, with hundreds of thousands of women and girls injured and maimed.

Today, even *Roe v. Wade* itself is in danger of being overturned, which would constitutionally end a women's right to legal abortion. The 5-4 balance in the court could change with the appointment of even one more anti-choice Justice, sending abortion decisions back to the state legislators.

As we celebrate thirty-two years of saving women's lives this month, we must not forget the imminent threat to our lives and the lives of women around the world who are affected by our government's policies. Join the fight to save *Roe v. Wade* and safe, legal, accessible abortion by joining [X University's/community's Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance or feminist group] and participating in [specific events planned for the month of the anniversary].

Sincerely,

The Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2005

Media contact:

FMLA Representative
Co-President, Vanderbilt Feminists
888-888-8888
FMLARep@vanderbilt.edu

**Vanderbilt Feminists, Students for Life join forces to host
Pregnancy Resource Forum**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Vanderbilt Feminists and the Students for Life, two student groups with a history of opposing agendas, have come together to plan and sponsor a Pregnancy Resource Forum on Thursday, February 19, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in Calhoun 109. The purpose of the forum is to determine what resources the university does and does not provide for students who become pregnant during their time at Vanderbilt. Students from the two groups will then work to publicize the available resources and propose changes in areas where resources are lacking.

Professor Larry Dowdy of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science will serve as moderator of the forum. The forum will consist of a series of brief presentations from a panel of relevant campus officials, followed by an open question and answer session. Panel members include Dr. John Greene from the Student Health Center, Dr. Linda Manning from the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center, Dean Francille Bergquist from the A&S Dean's Office and Jim Kramka from the Office of Housing and Residential Education. The panelists will address issues such as the confidentiality of pregnancy tests, on-campus child care, student health insurance coverage of pre-natal care, long-distance learning and housing and financial aid for students with children.

The two groups are excited to be working together on an issue of such importance to women in the Vanderbilt community.

"Our commitment to protecting reproductive freedom involves working to ensure that women have the ability to pursue any course of action that they decide is appropriate for their own lives. This means both advocating for access to safe, legal abortion and making sure that women who choose to become mothers have all the necessary resources to do so," said Jessica Bearden, co-president of the Vanderbilt Feminists.

"Students for Life firmly believes in protecting the dignity of human life, yet we also acknowledge that choosing life by carrying a pregnancy to term can be a difficult and life-changing decision. Thus, we believe that women who do choose life should have access to the resources they need to meet these challenges, including the resources needed to fulfill their educational goals," said Honora Logue, president of Students for Life.

The forum is open to the entire Vanderbilt community.

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- Intro: must tell who, what where, and when. The key is to get their attention.

- Additional information that the reporter will need to write a detailed article.

- Explanation of importance of event and statements from the leaders of the organizations.



Campus Politics: Winning a Seat at the Table

Identifying the Positions of Power on Your Campus

Does your student government control student activities fees? Who gives money to student organizations? How are student government officials elected? What other groups have influence in the politics and implementation of policy on your campus? How do students get involved in campus policy and procedure?

For your group to be successful on your campus, these are questions you should be able to answer. The people who make decisions about how student groups are approved, what funding they receive, and how they are able to hold events may be students. It is important to have members of your feminist group represented in all aspects of University Government.

Determine the Campus Climate for Women

What is the status of women on your campus? It is important to know how and if your university or college is represented by its female students. This information can be obtained by reviewing figures on the number of women and people of color who ran for student government positions in each of the last two years, the number of men who ran uncontested for these positions, as well as figures regarding the diversity of tenured faculty, administration, and Board of Trustee members.

Know the Election Rules and Customs

Become familiar with the election filing procedures for each influential position on campus. Election information is usually available from the main student government office, from the campus activities office, or from the particular group with the open seat. Review all of the election rules to determine whether any of them work to the disadvantage of women, people of color, persons with disability, or other groups on campus. If so, make this an issue in your campaign. Also find out the spending limits for each race. Often, student government itself will provide campaign money for candidates running for student government positions.

Beware of the campus political calendar and make sure other feminist and progressive students on campus are aware of these key dates. More precisely, when is the candidate filing deadline? Where are the candidate qualifications? When is the campaign period? When are the elections? Try to publicize this information in key feminist areas.

Set High Goals—Flood the Ticket

Remember that the goal is not to simply win one race but to gain equality for women and people of color in leadership and decision making positions on campus. To accomplish this goal, the FMLA/ affiliate must make sure that feminists are running in every race, especially the most powerful of the elected positions. The idea of "flooding the ticket" is that the more feminists that run for elected positions, the more feminists will be elected to those positions. In other words, it is impossible to have 50% of our campus leaders be women, if fewer than 50% of our candidates are!

Additionally, you should talk with professors, deans, and other campus faculty with access to students, and ask them to recommend student candidates and encourage their feminist students to seek office.

Seek Other Positions of Power

If you find potential candidates who will not run for student government or other elected offices on campus, encourage them to seek other policy-making positions of power. Often appointments to committees or boards offer extensive opportunities for feminists to establish a solid feminist support network from "within," and gain some experience and confidence before making the transition to elected office. Additionally, intercollegiate student groups are important places for feminists to be and offer unique opportunity for feminists to organize between campuses.

Develop Excitement and Visibility for the Campaigns

To help spread the word about feminist campaign issues and feminist candidates, members of the Leadership Alliance can speak to classes, departmental meetings, and student organizational meetings. Also work with feminist friendly newspaper staff to run an article on the feminist election platform and feminist candidates. Additional actions to help build excitement and support for your efforts include holding a rally, hosting an open forum to discuss sexual and racial inequalities on campus, or inviting a feminist speaker to address such issues near election time.

Get out the Vote!

Feminist candidates require two things to win a seat at the table - feminist candidates and feminist votes. We have reviewed some ways that the Leadership Alliance can increase the number of feminist candidates running for office on campus. The next step in the election process is ensuring that feminists on campus vote. By making efforts to increase voter participation, the Leadership Alliance is tapping into a supply of supporters that might otherwise remain silent. Since we know that feminists are the majority, we have a greater chance of winning a seat if everyone on campus votes.

Additional Actions

Major Speaker on Women in Politics

Try to get a feminist speaker to come to campus near student government election time. Suggested topics of discussion include the importance of increasing the number of pro-choice women and people of color in politics, or a discussion of the speaker's own experience as a pro-choice woman in politics.

Get to Know Your Local and State Leaders

Find out who your state and local legislators are, as well as their positions on key feminist issues such as abortion, family planning, and affirmative action. Moreover try to find out the percentages of women and people of color in these offices and other positions of power such as school boards.

Expose Anti-Feminist Candidates and Campus Leaders

Find out which candidates are running for positions of power on your campus are anti-choice, racist, sexist, and/or heterosexist. Make sure voters know about which candidates support a regressive and limiting agenda for women, people of color, and LGBT students.