Women's Union Collection

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Women's Union Collection
Dates: 1982-2014
Collection Number: PC.0041
Creator/Collector: Women's Union, 1982-2014
Extent: 4.25 linear feet (3 boxes)
Repository: Claremont Colleges. Pomona College Archives
Claremont, California 91711
Abstract: This collection contains planning documents, correspondence, copies of the Re-View newsletter, photographs, artwork, budget proposals, and meeting minutes.
Language of Material: English
Access
Collection open for research.
Publication Rights
All requests for permission to publish must be submitted in writing to the Archives.
Preferred Citation
Women's Union Collection. Claremont Colleges. Pomona College Archives
Acquisition Information
Biography/Administrative History
The Women's Union was founded in 1983 by Feminists Against Repression (FAR) in response to an increase of hate speech, including sexist and racist remarks towards minority groups on campus. Organized in 1978, FAR fought to establish stricter rules regarding sexual assault and violence against women and created the Women's Union (WU) as a safe space for women. Its initial purpose was to enable its members to reclaim feminism against typical stereotypes and provide resources, such as counseling services and crisis hotlines. The second floor of Walker Lounge was chosen as the permanent space for FAR and other Women's Union activities. Among the first activities at the WU were Thursday lunch talks which were held for faculty, professionals, graduate students and others to come and discuss a topic of their choice related to the WU's mission. In addition, Interconnections, a women's retreat, was established to bring female faculty and students together for mutual support. From this retreat, it was suggested that women at Pomona College should have an ongoing outlet to voice their feminist beliefs. From this meeting, the feminist publication Re-View was born. Its goal was to create an opportunity for the women of the Claremont Colleges to be seen and heard more professionally. The Women's Union continues to be a safe space for students and aims to harbor community engagement along with community support. 1978: Creation of Feminists Against Repression, working with the Gay Student Union. 1981: Colleen O'Neil writes a letter to the Pomona College administration regarding the need for a safe space for women. 1983: The Women's Union is established in collaboration with Toni Clark and Pomona students. 1983: First Women's Union Thursday Noon Discussion is held in the Women's Union. 1984: Lesbian Student Union began holding meetings in the Women's Union. 1988: First Interconnections takes place. 1989: The Re-View begins publication. 1993: The Closet, or the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Resource Center opens in Walker Lounge. 1996: The Women's Union, along with Student Liberation and Action Movement (SLAM), create the “Call to Action”, which was intended to address instances of hate speech and intolerance on campus. 2001: A chapter of Voices for Planned Parenthood (VOX) is created to raise awareness to the Claremont Colleges community about contraceptives and family planning options. 2004: The Women's Union and SLAM revise the “Call to Action” in order to improve the campus climate for students who had been made to feel marginalized. 2013: First Women of Color Social in the Women's Union.
Scope and Content of Collection
The Women's Union Collection contains budgets, founding and planning documents and project proposals. There are also copies of Women’s Unions publications, photographs, and artwork created at Women’s Union events.
Indexing Terms
Feminism
Gender Studies
Women's Union (1982-2014)