# ***Pipeline Vols for Women in STEM***

# ***Meeting Minutes***

Aug. 30, 2017, 6 PM, Dabney 575

1. **Call to order**

Mallory called to order the regular meeting of Pipeline at 6:09 on Aug 30th at Dabney 575.

1. **Attendance**

Jayde handed out the sign in sheet. See sign in sheet for attendance.

1. **Welcome new members!**
   * Background on Pipeline: Vols for Women in STEM “evaluate and elevate women in STEM”
   * See “Recruitment and Engagement Sldies\_2017.pptx” on google drive for summary
   * Website: <http://cfwstem.weebly.com/>
   * Join our Slack communication thread to join the conversation!
2. **Open issues/announcements**
3. Spring fundraiser: Small pins/buttons, we made ~$175

-Nick suggests selling pins online. If use management website, they can write student org check. Otherwise member could get the money themselves and donate to Pipeline for tax write off. Otherwise we could open a separate bank account from UTK.

-Alannie suggests selling water bottles, tote bags; also got support from multiple people

-Ask Tony what the merch website was that he had found.

1. Fall fundraiser: another round of buttons + t-shirts/long-sleeves
   * + - * -send T-shirt designs ideas to Tony or bring them to next meeting
         * -For Mallory: Find STEM newsletter on campus to advertise our group on
2. Women in STEM Research Symposium Planning Committee
   * + - * - Keynote speaker booked: Engineer from DOD

- Meeting: Wednesday, September 6th, 4-6 PM, Hodges 235L

1. WiSTAR3 Committee

- Social tomorrow at Schulz Brau, 7:30 PM!

1. Data & Statistics Committee

- Meeting: Tuesday, September 5th, 5 PM, Hodges 135D

1. **New business**
2. Committee assignments!
3. General body meeting group discussion ideas; add ideas to #minutes channel in Slack
4. Find space for storage; ask Susan/EEB office?

* Alannie will ask Susan, Student Union is supposed to have storage for student orgs too

1. Tech

- Who adds calendar events? How do we want to do this in the future?

1. **Group Discussion: Effective Communication & Public Speaking Activities**
   * **-** A big part of effective communication is connecting with your audience, telling a story to make it interesting and making them feel something so they remember your story. One way to practice this is to use improvisation activities to help you feel comfortable in front of a group. In this month’s meeting, we broke up into two large groups and practiced our public speaking with the following three activities. Feel free to try them at home too!
2. **“Big Speeches”**: Thanks to [Guilty Feminist](http://guiltyfeminist.com/) for this one! Someone once noticed that the Shakespearean speeches by men were strong, powerful, and confident while the speeches made by women were wistful and more emotive. It’s also been shown that women have a tendency to be more apologetic when they speak (ex: saying I’m sorry when there’s nothing really to be sorry for).

This activity puts you in the shoes of some of history’s greatest speeches by men. The idea isn’t to mimic how you’ve heard these speeches repeated in film or other media, but to convince yourself that these are your words, and that the audience (could be your bathroom mirror) is hearing it for the first time. Find your own personal, powerful voice. Where would you add emphasis? Where would you pause for effect? Which parts do you want your audience to remember most and how would you get them to remember that?

Some speeches we worked with at this month’s meeting were the Gettysburg Address, MLK’s I Have a Dream, and

1. **Describe a “Picture”**: Hold up a plain, white sheet of paper and describe to your audience a picture of yourself from memory. Tell a story about the photo, give background information and lots of descriptive words. What were you wearing? What are you doing? Why do you love that picture? What does it say about you? Who took the photo? Why did they want to take it in that moment?
2. **Audience Acts it Out:** Oftentimes when people feel nervous in front of an audience, it’s because we get inside our own heads, trying to remember what we wanted to say, or worried about how people are judging our performance, and we forget about our audience. Some of that response is evolutionary, leftover from our days back on the Serengeti, when that many eyes looking at you at once meant it was time to trigger a predator-prey response, and not become someone’s lunch!

So here’s the activity. Pick one person to tell a story--could be anything from what they did that morning to a made-up story about how they see themselves telling off their boss at work--and throughout the story, the audience has to act out what is happening in the story.

The goals is for the speaker to use as many action verbs (that are easy to act out) as possible. This forces the speaker to think on their feet, adjust their story to be more descriptive and memorable, and is a fun way to remind us that the audience isn’t all that scary.

Have fun!! And good luck at your next talk! Check out the [Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science](http://www.aldakavlilearningcenter.org/) for more resources on science communication and public speaking using improvisation.

1. **Adjournment**

Mallory adjourned the meeting at 7:02.

Minutes submitted by: Jayde

Minutes approved by: Mallory