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Bylaws, Revised February 2007

The Commission for Lesbian, Gay Bisexual and Transgender People at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville

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Commission for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) People **University of Tennessee**

Welcome from the UT Commission for LGBT People

The UT Commission for LGBT People is a body appointed by the Chancellor to advise on planning, implementation, and evaluation of University programs, policies, and services designed to improve the status of LGBT people on the Knoxville Campus. The Commission, in its role as an advocacy group, is committed to the advancement of LGBT students, faculty and staff at the UT Institute of Agriculture, UT Medical Center and the Graduate School of Medicine (not to be confused with the Health Science Center at Memphis), and The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Commission for LBGT People: Bylaws

I. PURPOSE

- A. The Commission for LGBT People – Knoxville is a body appointed by the Chancellor to advise on the planning, implementation, and evaluation of University programs, policies, and services designed to improve the status of LGBT people on the Knoxville campus.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Commission shall:

- A. Recommend changes in policy or procedure relative to the concerns of LGBT people;
- B. Make recommendations concerning new and existing academic, professional development, and extracurricular programs;
- C. Recommend and encourage research to assess the status of LGBT people at The University of Tennessee (UT) and compare their status with that of LGBT people at other institutions and agencies;
- D. Advise and consult with all University officials on the needs and status of LGBT people; and
- E. Provide information to the campus and community on Commission and University programs and activities related to LGBT people.

III. COMPOSITION

A. Membership.

1. Regular membership.

The Commission for LGBT People shall consist of no fewer than 20 voting members, with a proportionate number of faculty members, exempt and non-exempt staff members and students all equitably distributed among the various colleges, schools, and administrative units of the University. Appointments are made annually, usually for three consecutive years.

2. Ex-officio voting membership.

The following members by position (or their designees) are voting members:

- a. Faculty Senate president
- b. Employee Relation Council representative
- c. SGA president
- d. GSS president
- e. Exempt Staff Council – chair
- f. Commission for Women - chair
- g. Commission for Blacks - chair
- h. Student assistant of the Commission for LGBT People
- i. Lambda Student Union - president

3. Ex-officio non-voting membership.

- a. Dean of Students
- b. Director of Human Resources
- c. Director of Equity and Diversity
- d. International Students - Director

B. Chair and Vice-Chairs.

A Chair recommended to and approved by the Chancellor shall head the Commission for LGBT People. The Chair shall be aided by two Vice-chairs, similarly recommended and approved. The Chair and the two Vice-chairs shall be elected for two-year terms, once renewable. The Chair and at least

one Vice-chair should have alternating terms. It is important to have gender diversity among the leadership.

C. Committees.

Volunteers shall be solicited from among the Commission's membership to serve on the following standing committees:

1. Executive Advisory Committee
2. Communications Committee
3. Equity Issues Committee
4. Ad-Hoc committees will be formed as needed

IV. MEETINGS

A. Frequency.

The Commission shall schedule regular monthly meetings at a time to be agreed upon at the beginning of each academic year. Additional meetings shall be scheduled as needed. The agenda at these meeting shall be determined by the Commission itself and may include items placed on it at the request of the Chancellor, of a member of the faculty, staff or student body with a grievance or concern; or of any member of the UT community with an issue which might demand investigation. All meetings shall be open to any member of the UT community.

B. Robert's Rules of Order.

All Commission meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order.

V. BUDGET

- A. Funding through Office of the Chancellor and Office of Equity and Diversity. The Commission shall be provided with funds through the Office of the Chancellor to cover expenses including telephone service, awards, student assistant, mentoring events, research endeavors, and communications projects (e.g., The Networker—biannual publication serving the faculty, staff and student body).

At least one student assistant (20 hr/wk) shall be chosen to aid the chair by attending and taking notes at commission meetings, editing The Networker, assisting with mentoring events of performing other tasks as needed and required. The student assistant will be appointed by the chancellor's office and report directly to the Chair.

VI. APPROVAL AND AMENDMENTS

- A. Approval by two-thirds vote of Commission membership.
These bylaws shall be approved by two-thirds vote of the Commission membership taken by ballot.
- B. Amendments.
They may be amended by a similar vote taken at two successive, regularly scheduled meetings.
- C. Effective upon approval by Chancellor.
Both bylaws and amendments shall become effective upon the approval of the Chancellor.

Articles IV, V and VI added 12 December 2006 by vote of the Commission

Revised by vote of the Commission 15 February 2007