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4-6-2009

Minutes, 4/6/2009

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

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Minutes
Commission for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) People
March 2, 2009

Time: 12:00 PM
Place: Hodges Library, Room 605

Present: Joseph Anderson, Donna Braquet, Alan Chesney, Amy Davidson, Maxine Davis, Rusty Drummer, Lars Dzikus, Leslee Fisher, George Hoemann, Joel Kramer, Erik Leander, Mary Lucal, Julie Lynch, Dustin Nelson, Gina Owens, Anton Reece, Lynn Sacco, Renee Smith, Michael Stauffer, Terrell Strayhorn, Roger Weaver

Call to Order: 12:01 PM

Old Business: None.

New Business:

A) Welcome
Minutes approved at 12:02 PM.

B) Chair's Report
Meeting with Associate General Council
The meeting was held to discuss the language in the discrimination complaint procedure. The general counsel has previously declined to meet with the commission due to its interpretation of their ethical code. As a result of this meeting, the general counsel's draft will be rewritten to offer greater clarity. The general counsel will also attempt to determine whether the exclusion of "gender identity" in the university system's policy statement was an oversight or intentional.

This discussion also led Dr. Hoemann to conclude that the commission should seek to include a member of the law school faculty in its membership. Specifically, the commission should seek out someone with experience in discrimination issues.

Meeting with Chancellor Cheek
Dr. Hoemann found the meeting to be productive, and he believes the chancellor will continue to support an ongoing dialogue between the commission and the administration. Dr. Hoemann noted that Chancellor Cheek has prior experience working at an institution that provides domestic partner benefits.

SGA Diversity Week
During the week of March 23rd, the SGA will be hosting Diversity Week. On the 24th, a discussion panel will be conducted titled "Opening the Door: Exploring Issues in the LGBT Community." The commission is currently looking for volunteers who are willing to assist with this event.

New Graduate Assistant
After an extensive interview process, the commission has hired a new graduate assistant who will begin his term on August 1st.

C) Guest Speaker: Sarah Knight and LGBT Students Study Abroad
Currently, the university's study abroad web site lacks resources and information for LGBT students. Sarah Knight is specifically looking for testimonials about study abroad experiences from LGBT students.

D) Awards Committee
Voting was held for the commission's awards for the 2009 Chancellor's Honors Banquet.

Renee Smith noted that the commission needs to develop clear policies regarding awards criteria and the nominating procedure.

E) Communications Committee
On 2/27, the university hosted a showing of *Milk*, a film about the life of Harvey Milk. Lambda Student Union held a panel discussion about the film afterwards.

The committee had planned a student film festival on April 15th, but this is being retooled into a "Breaking the Silence" event that will consist of a series of discussion panels. This event will still occur on April 15th at 6 PM.

The communications committee has decided to apply a theme to the events of each semester. Next semester, the theme will be religion, and the committee hopes to have a seminar on the subject involving ministers, rabbis, etc.

F) Development Committee
Nothing new to report.

G) Equity Committee
Members of the committee continue to report difficulty with conducting research into the availability of domestic partner benefits at local companies.

H) Resource Center Committee
The committee continues to move forward with an "assessment-based strategic plan model" for the resource center. This plan, in other words, will be based on making assessments of the center's capacity to meet its goals and provide various services.

The committee has settled on "OUTreach: LGBT & Ally Resource Center" for the name of the resource center. The commission voted unanimously to approve the proposed name.

I) Old Business
Revision of Bylaws
The by-law revisions were approved *en masse*.

J) New Business
Roger Weaver is writing a collection development policy for the resource center.

Adjournment: 12:40 PM