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Minutes, 02/15/2007

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 People (LGBT) People
February 15, 2007

Time: 11:30

Place: 6th Floor Hodges Library

Present: Melissa Bartsch, Donna Braquet, Ron Gilmour, Lou Gross, George Hoemann, Wes Knott, Marti McClard, Bharat Mehra, Becky Morgan, Jenny Moshack, Jane Redmond, Marva Rudolph, Ashe Smith, Renee Smith, PJ Snodgrass, Maxine Thompson, Nikki Wallace, Roger Weaver, Eddie Woodruff

Absent: Kristi Bogle, Alan Chesney, Ed Cortez, Pam Hindle, Chris Hodge, Ed White, Yang Zhong.

Call to Order- George Hoemann welcomed everyone and the meeting began at 11:35.

Old Business- Changes to bylaws must be voted on twice and agreed

Agreed on second vote to change "Provost" to "Chancellor" in Section IV

Discussion on the minutes- Section V- Budget wording on student worker appointment should be changed from select to appointed by chancellor's office. Unanimous decision made before vote.

Statement should now read:

Student Assistant- 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 or performing other tasks as needed and required. The student assistant will be **appointed** by the chancellor's office and report directly to the Chair.

Vote on Minutes- minutes approved after discussion. Renee Smith moved, Bharat second. Minutes were approved.

New Business-

Committee Reports

- A) Executive Committee- No Report
- B) Donna- Website up, Roger has agreed to be archivist for committee.
 - a. Drafting a brochure
 - b. Event in April- celebrate creation and tell people more about commission
 - c. Plan fall even- utilizing ready for the world funding and in conjunction with Lambda Student Union
 - d. Send comments on the website to Donna. Ashe will link to the commission web page from the Lambda Page.
 - e. The Announcement of the commission is included in the letter from the chancellor. The letter will be going to faculty and staff. It has

George Hoemann listed as the chair, the commission website. It is also included as part of the ABC index.

- C) Equity Committee- Jenny Moshack reporting
 - a. Meeting scheduled for Friday Feb 23 @ 10am with Research Committee to discuss how the two committees can work together.
 - b. In house survey to determine current campus inequities (T-Rec membership, partner ID cards, married student housing applications, partner job placement) and current campus climate.
 - c. Work with commission and administration on research findings.
 - d. Work with Communications Committee to publicize the progressive and equal changes.
 - e. Work with Research Committee to compare UT with peer institutions and Fortune 500 companies to see what they offer.
 - f. Evaluate university forms (Orientation Packet, Student Health Clinic, etc) to make sure they have proper language and categories.
 - g. Evaluate training for any group that works with large numbers of students, faculty or staff.
 - h. Work with Safety Education and Environment committee to provide a safe environment for LGBT people.
- D) Membership Committee- Will be meeting and have a report for the next meeting
 - a. George has been contacted by three people from the small amount of publicity about the commission.
 - b. Roger Weaver asked of people who were interested in helping the commission could without being a formal member of the commission? This was not seen as a problem; need all the help that the commission can get.
- E) Research Committee
 - a) Analyzed 11 peer institutions: UF, UGA, UNC, 2 in Texas, 2 in Virginia
 - b) Made a check list of non-discrimination statements and look to see if these institutions are doing any of these.
 - c) Committee is going to make scenarios of peoples experiences and compile a report for next meeting.
 - d) Compile survey finding from review of other institutions.
- IV. Marva Rudolph-
 - a) Lambda has been bringing up sexual orientation for a long time
 - b) Crabtree has been dealing with the issue for a year with general council.
 - c) Tag line on Knoxville campus only
 - d) On board because of the accrediting department so the UT board adopted the EOE statement for all campuses.
 - e) Sexual harassment is based on formal complaints and protected by federal laws.
 - f) Benefits- some can be offered through UT policies and procedures, but there would be no state coverage's.

- g) Training programs- work on training the trainers and people who work with student affairs. Provide awareness and protections through their parameters.
- h) Student Government association pushed the issue with president Peterson in a public forum about the Tag Line.
- i) Lou- the Tag Line was not on the agenda for the board currently, but he would be willing to put it on the agenda if it was brought to him through the SGA for a formal resolution. A concern is a backlash from the legislator. It helps that students are pushing the issue.
- j) The Chancellor is also concerned about a backlash.
- k) Roger stated that we should be doing the minimum here at UT that other institutions are doing in order to compete for faculty and students.
- l) What kind of protection can EOD provide?
 Marva has stats on the few complaints
 Look at how to prevent incidences
 Work on finding out what is not being reported
- j) Lou is going to bring these issues up with other faculty senate presidents.

F) General

Commission needs to do something public with academics.

Becky- Need to contact and work with other organizations on other campuses. Need to work with collective efforts.

Eddie- Need to network through SGA and the students

Roger- would like for us to be educated on how different committees on our campus, along with the other campuses, work together to accomplish set goals.

Ashe- At the Kevin Jennings lunch, there were representatives from PFLAG in attendance. The commission should involve PFLAG in other events.

Bharat- LGBT Youth Project. February 24, 2007. Talking to youths about High School Environments.

Teaches a class in Library Services in a Diverse Society that focuses on grant writing. Think about specific projects that we could use student help on writing the grants.

Lynn- History department teaching on LGBT issues.

Adjournment: 12:34