University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange

Commission for LGBT - Reports, Minutes, Events and Other Documents

Commission for LGBT People

9-8-2008

# Minutes, 9/8/2008

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

Follow this and additional works at: http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_lgbtrepo

Part of the Gender and Sexuality Commons

Recommended Citation
The Commission for Lesbian, Gay Bisexual and Transgender People at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, "Minutes, 9/8/2008" (2008). *Commission for LGBT - Reports, Minutes, Events and Other Documents.*
http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_lgbtrepo/20

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Commission for LGBT People at Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Commission for LGBT - Reports, Minutes, Events and Other Documents by an authorized administrator of Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact trace@utk.edu.

**Minutes**
**Commission for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) People**
**September 8, 2008**

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

**Present:** Melissa Bartsch, Donna Braquet, Alan Chesney, James DeVita, Ben Doty, Rusty Drummer, Lars Dzikus, Leslee Fisher, Jenna Glover, Julian Hendrix, R.J. Hinde, Pam Hindle, George Hoemann, Joel Kramer, Erik Leander, Mary Lucal, Julie Lynch, Bharat Mehra, Suzanne Molnar, Rebecca Morgan, Jenny Moshak, Dustin Nelson, Marva Rudolph, Tina Shepardson, Renee Smith, Terrell Strayhorn, Michelle Stauffer, Meshia Thomas, Roger Weaver, Pia Wood

**Call to Order:** 12:02 PM

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**A) Welcome and Introductions**

Committee members provided brief introductions and Dr. Hoemann provided a brief history of the commission. Pam Hindle discussed the Commission for Women, focusing on their goals for this year.

The 2008 State of the Campus Report was well received by Chancellor Simek, Simek has also expressed willingness to further pursue an LGBT resource center for the campus.

Trecs has changed its policy. Domestic partners are now allowed to join Trecs at the spousal rate.

The Commission has an operating budget. It is possible that next year's budget will be smaller, so the Commission will endeavor to use the entire budget.

None of the five chancellor finalists have specified any work or interest in issues concerning the LGBT community. Members of the commission were encouraged to attend the meetings with the finalists.

**B) Communications Committee**
In the past, the committee has hosted a film series, a brown bag lunch series, and a speaker series.

On October 16th, there will be a presentation in the library on The History Project: Documenting GLBT Boston by Patricia Gozemba. The presentation is co-sponsored by the Diversity Committee.

The committee is working on Voices of Diversity, a digital archive for the LGBT community of UTK.

The committee is also planning to host a panel of students for an informal discussion concerning the Voices of Diversity project.

The committee has also designed a logo for the commission that has been approved by the university. T-shirts bearing the logo are currently in the works.

**C) The Equity Committee**
The equity committee intends to give more attention to student equality this year in response to concerns that, in the past year, the committee has been overly focused on staff and faculty equality.

The equity committee also hopes to gather data on retention, determining how many people are leaving UTK due to LGBT issues. In the past, there has been difficulty with low response rates to surveys due to student and faculty concerns about self-disclosure. There has been some discussion of bringing in a private polling company to conduct the surveys.

**D) Committee Structure**

There are three standing committees: the executive advisory committee, the communications committee, and the equity committee.

There are also four ad hoc committees: the awards committee, the development committee, the membership committee, and the resource committee.

The commission also hopes to find some external funding. The commission has been communicating with the alumni office about contacting alumni who might be interested in contributing to the commission's budget.

There was a curriculum committee last year but it did not make much progress. However, adding LGBT content to the curriculum is among the priorities of the commission as a whole.

Dr. Dzikus recommended creating a record of attempted communications with the university president.

**Adjournment:** 12:57 PM