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Minutes, 03/22/2007

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
March 22, 2007

Time: 11:30

Place: 6th Floor Hodges Library

Present: Melissa Bartsch, Donna Braquet, Alan Chesney, Ed Cortez, Ron Gilmour, Lou Gross, Chris Hodge, George Hoemann, Wes Knott, Bharat Mehra, Jenny Moshack, Jane Redmond Ashe Smith, Renee Smith, Nikki Wallace, Roger Weaver, Eddie Woodruff, Yang Zhong

Absent: Kristi Bogle, Pam Hindle, Marti McClard, Becky Morgan, Marva Rudolph, PJ Snodgrass, Ed White

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

Old Business- None

New Business-

Committee Reports

- A) Executive Committee- No Report
- B) Donna- Website up with blog and calendar.
 - a. Brown bag lunches once a month to become visible and educate non-LGBT people.
 - b. Every other month have a film and speaker series
 - c. Working on a logo.
 - d. Main event fall of 2007. Looking at Judy Sheppard (mother of Matthew Sheppard).
- C) Equity Committee- Jenny Moshack reporting
 - a. Met with Research Committee Friday Feb 23 @ 10am to discuss how the two committees could better work together.
 - b. Review UT generated from for inclusive language. Marti is gathering forms for review
 - c. Review Web sites and forms on the web- Becky is starting that review.
 - d. Suggest changes to departments not using inclusive language or benefits (ex. Wes checking on changing the Library Staff card application to include spouse/partner)
 - e. Inquire about what training does on campus wide regarding diversity- Marva is checking into this.
 - f. Exit survey- Marva is checking to see whether the survey is still being conducted and to see if there are questions regarding LGBT issues and the campus climate.
 - g. Melissa Bertsch has a colleague at the University of Florida who presented a photo essay from LGBT students outlining presence/absence of inclusion. Melissa is going to find out more

- details about eh successes and challenges of the project. Consider working with LAMBDA, GSS and SGA on this type of project.
- h. Equity group was asked to review the Transgender Inclusion Awareness Campaign planning paper written by Nikki Wales and give feedback to Cyomara Fisher and Veliska Perumal.
 - i. Setting up a meeting with Dan Reilly and the SEE committee to promote safe and healthy messages for LGBT students.
 - j. PJ is posting the Equity Committee minutes on BlackBoard.
- D) Membership Committee- Will be meeting and have a report for the next meeting
- a. Increasing the number interested in serving on the committee
 - b. How to accommodate people who have a concern about being directly affiliated with the commission. "friend of the commission" listing?
 - c. Provide mentoring opportunities to students; how to come out/ how to live life.
 - d. Work with Alumni who are identified LGBT or Allies.
 - e. Working on guidelines for inviting members when having conversations with interested people.
 - f. Staffing the commission/ appointments by the chancellor.
- E) Research Committee
- a) Peer institution criteria for LGBT support.
 - b) Making a list of 20 criteria to look for.
 - c) Using two levels of analysis check list and a detailed list.
 - d) Look at award criteria for the LGBT award for next year.
 - e) Collect positive and negative stories from campus about LGBT experiences. Compile and present to the commission.
 - f) March 8th a discussion on writing grants
 - g) Start a reading series on LGBT people.
- F) General
- Petersen, Crabtree et al.** - Meet to discuss orientation placement in hiring statement. A resolution for the commission would also help. Texas A& M does not mention orientation in their hiring statement, but all other AAU school have adopted a resolution.
- Follow Up-** This may need to go to the Trustees not just the president. A concern could be that some members are very conservative, but the commission would need the president to say that it was essential. It's also not just the board, but the General Council Office.
- Student Government-** partnered with OED to sponsor diversity week.
- Meeting with Big Orange Allies-** Safe zones and acceptance with Kim Morro. Need to be careful with the wording of Safe Zone. Kim should be invited to commission meeting.

Last meeting before the end of the academic year, April 26, 2007
Adjournment: 12:34

