

## Chancellor's Committee on the Status of LGBT Issues

*Minutes from October 13, 2009*

In attendance: Teri Blain, Scott Boots, Amy Brainer, Brent Braveman, Tina Copeland, Melanie D'Andrilli, Francesca Gaiba, Tom Koster, Carrie Sandahl, Bernie Santarsiero, Jamie Scheid, Liz Thomson, Nick Webster, and Lauren Yurman.

### I. Welcome and Introductions

### II. Budget Update

A current updated budget will be featured on each monthly agenda. So far we have co-sponsored two events, and we still do not have an official budget.

Total budget: approximately \$19,000

Graduate Assistant: \$8,166.67

Supplies: \$90.25

Co-sponsorship for GSC October keynote speaker: \$2,000

Co-sponsorship for Sexuality and Disability Consortium: \$300

Remaining budget: approximately \$8,443.08

### III. New Business

1. Co-sponsorship request from the Disability Arts and Culture Project: Dr. Carrie Sandahl attended the meeting to present the co-sponsorship request. The event will feature Terry Galloway, a queer, deaf performance artist from Tallahassee, Florida. Galloway has a new memoir *Mean Little Deaf Queer*. The event will consist of her reading from her new memoir, performing an excerpt from one of her live shows, show one of her short video parodies, and then a question and answer session with the audience. A lot of her work is autobiographical and much of it deals with issues of gender and sexuality. She is deaf and also has a mental illness, and her work often deals with being an insider and outsider of multiple communities. The event will be held in the auditorium in DHSP but it only holds 80 people, so we may have to look for a bigger venue. The co-sponsorship request is for \$500 to help pay for her honorarium and travel expenses. GSC and CCSPD are also co-sponsors, and

the Disability Resource Center has agreed to provide an ASL interpreter and captioning.

After Dr. Sandahl left the meeting, the committee took a vote on the co-sponsorship request and it passed unanimously. Graduate Assistant Melanie D'Andrilli will contact her by e-mail to let her know the results and work further with the co-sponsorship.

2. Co-chair Scott Boots passed out and explained the working sub-committee form, which will include names and contact information for the members of each subcommittee, as well as a planning form to outline the goal to be worked on for the semester and steps to help meet that goal. Members were asked to begin to fill them out for the November meeting. We are also in the process of trying to figure out how else we can meet as subcommittees, such as doing a conference call, or meeting online, etc. Ideally, each subcommittee will meet once a month but we know that this can be hard to do physically with everyone's schedule.
3. Sub-committee reports:
  - a. Research & Scholarship: no news to report right now. First priority is getting together a Lavender Research Forum for the spring. Bernie Santarsiero will start to flesh out the details for that. The Gender and Sexuality Center recently awarded two graduate awards and one undergraduate award through the Kellogg Rainbow Merit Scholarship, and the award recipients could be presenters for the LRF.
  - b. Education, Outreach, & Communication:
    - o Transgender Issues: Organizing an art contest for gender-neutral bathroom signs to replace the usual male and female figure. Any student, staff and faculty can create a new sign for the new gender-neutral bathrooms on campus. An announcement of this contest will be coming soon. Awaiting a response from the Office of Access and Equity to allow for a \$250 cash prize for the winner. Co-chair Francesca Gaiba sent out an e-mail to our listserv asking for a bathroom wish list. Gaiba plans to send a thank you letter to Chancellor for the five gender neutral bathrooms, and also to ask for some additional bathroom locations. We need to find out what gender neutral bathrooms already exist but just need a proper sign. Another goal is to find out information about health care; is the university health system trans friendly? Amy Brainer is going to talk to Campus Care about their policies. Other subcommittee

members are going to work on finding out about campus housing policies and procedures in regards to transgender students.

- Domestic Partner Benefits: Next week the Vice Chancellor for Human Resources may request the CCSLGBTI send representation to a meeting with the “campus HR professionals.” If this goes through, Teri Blain will be contacting some people from the CC to present at this meeting. Our role would be to disseminate DP benefit information and emphasize that HR professionals need to know about these policies.
  - Blood Drive: no activity to report.
- c. Curriculum & Learning: Scott Boots handed out a draft of a memo that he hopes to send to the other Chancellor’s Committees regarding working together on integrating diversity in the classroom (a copy of the memo is attached to the end of the minutes). He would appreciate any feedback. In January he hopes to create an online survey for students to find out what kinds of diversity they are being taught. He also hopes to distribute a one-page information sheet to give to the deans of colleges letting them know about diversity in the classroom. Please contact Scott if you have any feedback or have any resources. A ‘dos and don’ts’ list would be helpful.
  - d. Outreach & Administration: Scott wants to look at the current process for co-sponsorship requests and make edits and enhancements, and also change the wording on our website.
4. In an effort to try and cut down excess paper waste, the amount of photocopying done for our meetings will likely be lessened. There will always be an agenda printed out and three-hole punched for members, but other documents will be sent in e-mail form and there will not always be copies at each meeting.
  5. Reminder: Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, Transgender Health, Health Care & Transitioning Costs Panel Discussion, 3:00-4:30 PM in room 1171 BSB, 1007 W. Harrison Street. After the discussion there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new, ready to use, single stall gender neutral bathroom in BSB.
  6. Update on the GSC director search: A committee is being formed to help in the director search for Diversity Centers. Two other centers of the five are also losing their directors. John D’Emilio is requesting that the idea of expanding the GSC into a research center be put on hold and the CC write a letter as a whole to Bette Bottoms to ask about a timeline for the Director search. If there is not going to be a search, we want to know now.

7. Co-chairs Francesca and Scott will be in contact with people from each subcommittee next week to check in.
8. The last 15 minutes of the meeting were used for working subcommittees to meet and work together.

**The next CCSLGBTI meeting will be on November 17<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 4:45PM in 183 BSB**

## Memo

To: Chairpersons of the Chancellor's Committees

From: R. Scott Boots, MPA

Co-Chair of the Chancellor's Committee on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues

Date: October 19, 2009

Re: Joint Project of the Chancellor's Committees on Integrating Diversity in the Classroom

The Curriculum and Learning Subcommittee on the Status of Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual and Transgender Issues is interested in developing a guide for faculty to aid them in integrating issues of diversity in their lectures and classroom materials. We envision a simple and straightforward “how to” resource that can easily be distributed through the Colleges at UIC. The resource would include basic “do’s and don’ts (i.e. “Do add age, gender, race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability status to case vignettes rather than using just a name” or “Don’t ask a student for his or her perspective as a person of a particular background.”).

The GLBTI Sub-Committee is willing to take the lead to begin development of this resource but we would like it to represent the perspectives of all the groups represented by the Chancellor’s Committees. As an initial step we would like to hear from you if:

1. Is a project you are willing to support?
2. Can you identify one member of your committee who would be willing to be the contact for your Committee?

The general steps we anticipate include:

1. Identify simple strategies for integrating diversity in classroom lectures and materials. Develop a simple list of “do’s” and “don’ts.”
2. Develop examples of vignettes, PowerPoint slides and exercises.
3. Identify resources for learning more about diversity in the classroom.
4. Develop a draft of the resource.
5. Review by all Chancellors’ Committees.
6. Distribution to the Colleges.
7. In-service presentations to Departments that request them.

We look forward to hearing from you and hopefully to collaborating with you on this important project.

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