

Chancellor's Committee on the Status of LGBT Issues
Meeting with Interim Chancellor, Provost and Interim Associate Chancellor
Minutes from November 18, 2008

In attendance: Interim Associate Chancellor Caryn Bills, Brent Braveman, Jennifer Brier, Tina Copeland, Melanie D'Andrilli, Francesca Gaiba, Interim Chancellor Eric Gislason, Beau Gratzer, Stacey Horn, Jacqueline Leskovec, Becky Lowery, Brian Mustanski, Patrick Robinson, Bernie Santarsiero, Laura Stempel, Provost Michael Tanner, Liz Thomson, Allison Tingwall, and Richard Williams.

I. LAVENDER RESEARCH FORUM

1. Co-chair Bernie Santarsiero gave a recap of last year's inaugural Lavender Research Forum, which was an all day event held in the Institute of the Humanities in Stevenson Hall, and included talks from faculty involved in LGBT research, -- John D'Emilio, Stacey Horn, Brian Mustanski, and Jennie Brier--and four graduate students. The Lavender Research Forum also celebrated the release of Kevin Barnhurst's latest book with a short video presentation. This event brought together a broad spectrum of students and faculty from across campus to encourage greater discussion and interaction. With better preparation in timing and announcement, we hope to gain even greater attendance from both on- and off-campus faculty and students at the next Forum.
2. This year John D'Emilio organized a series of Lavender Lunch events. Bernie spoke about having another Lavender Research Forum next academic year, and alternating the two events in coming years.
3. Interim Chancellor Eric Gislason asked if we give awards to graduate students. Bernie explained that as a committee, we have two scholarship awards given out each year, one for an undergraduate and one for a graduate student. The Chancellor said that this is great, and suggested that we may want to get alumni involved and coming back. We have been working on this for the past couple of years, and have been working with the Alumni Association.

II. FOUNDATION FUNDING ON LGBT SEED GRANTS

1. Brian Mustanski spoke about an ongoing effort, since the CCSLGBTI meeting with the Chancellor last year, in garnering seed grants funding. A small group of researchers applied for external funding available for GLBT research, which has doubled over the past few years. Three foundations were approached: the David Bohnett Foundation awarded us \$20,000 and we are currently following up with another.
2. Three awards have been dispersed from the first round of applications, and a second round is scheduled for early next semester. We are in the process of getting a press release out. Our goal is to renew this Foundation grant in following years, and apply for even more funding from other foundations.
3. Chancellor Gislason suggested that we contact Tony Halford, in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, for additional help since he handles funding and paperwork for various awards, and could maximize our efforts. The Committee is encouraged by these efforts and support of the Administration.

Laura Stempel was unclear about what kind of help we can ask for. Chancellor Gislason clarified that OVCR can provide administrative help in managing the review of applications.

4. Jennie Brier explained that the seed grant application reviewing team wrote substantive letters to all the applicants, winners and non-winners, with comments and suggestions on how to improve their applications.
5. Brian reminded Provost Michael Tanner that he encouraged us at last year's meeting with the Chancellor to seek external funding, and asked to revisit the dialogue concerning a match to our funds.
6. Chancellor Gislason suggested that a group of 3-4 people from the CCSLGBTI meet with Tony Halford and Jennifer Czak in OVCR. They organize interdisciplinary campus meetings with groups that share a common interest. With their help, we might be able to reach more individuals on campus involved in GLBT and other related research.
7. Jennie Brier talked about the work with the Development office. Co-chair Francesca Gaiba spoke about her work in the Office of Social Science Research, and that her office would be able to help house grants.
8. Chancellor Gislason and Provost Tanner stated that they were willing to offer support as needed.

III. GENDER AND SEXUALITY CENTER DIRECTOR

1. Co-chair Francesca Gaiba briefly spoke about how the CCSLGBTI helped to create the Office of Gay, Bisexual, Lesbian, and Transgender Concerns (OGBLTC), which has now been renamed the Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC). The GSC director Patrick Finnessey recently resigned, and this was soon after Lon Kaufman, who oversaw Patrick's position as Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs, moved into a new position. Francesca said that as a committee we are interested in knowing about the process and the search committee for a new director of the GSC, and in being more engaged in the process.
2. Provost Tanner told us that Bette Bottoms in the Psychology Department will be the new Interim Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs. She is aware of the lack of a GSC director, and just started recently, so Provost Tanner said he will talk with her about it. He told us that Dr. Bottoms would most likely be happy to involve us in the process.
3. Jennie felt this was a high-priority issue. Laura asked if this position would definitely be filled. Provost Tanner said that yes, the position would be filled, and felt that there were grounds for exemption even if a hiring freeze was implemented.
4. Stacey Horn suggested that we are at a new place with GSC and we need to put more thought into the kind of person we want to handle the center, and have it focused on research, as well as advocacy and programming. Francesca talked about wanting to emphasize LGBT research and thinking on a grander scale, and promoting the GSC as more of a LGBT research center of the Midwest. We need a very special individual to move us in that direction. Jennie pointed out that we do not just want to focus on research, but make sure we still uphold student functions and programming as well. Student needs and programming needs have to be combined with faculty and research needs within the

GSC. The other major centers are CLAGS (the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies) at CUNY and the Williams Institute at UCLA. UIC could foster a unique center involved in not just LGBT student programming or LGBT research, but in a combination of education, scholarship, outreach, and advocacy. This is a great opportunity to recognize the legitimacy of LGBT scholarship.

5. Brian emphasized that there is definitely money out there for us. Laura said that there are people in the Chicago community who want to support LGBT issues and student programming, but right now we have no place for them to put that money or anything specific to put it towards.
6. There was substantive discussion on whether Undergraduate Affairs was the most appropriate Administrative unit for the GSC, in view of this expansion into scholarly research. Provost Tanner suggested that one option might be the College of Liberal Arts, and that LAS Dean Dwight McBride could be approached to discuss this. The CC does need to more fully explore the overall goals of the GSC, which would make it unique as a Cultural and Diversity Center and campus research unit.
7. Chancellor Gislason suggested that we form a small group to meet with Bette Bottoms as the Interim Vice Provost, and discuss our goals and the options. She will be supportive.
8. Laura talked about needing an Interim Director now, but we need to look at the future of where we really want the center to go, and hire a permanent director based on our vision and goals.
9. The Chancellor noted that a detailed plan and goals would be important in getting endowment support, and that we should be working with someone in Development, if we even think there is a slim chance for a donation to name a center here. Bernie stated that we have been working with Development, and are aware of these issues.
Provost Tanner also encouraged us to work with Development once there are some concrete goals in place. He noted the problem in approaching a donor before we have our ideas fully developed. We need to come up with a vision, and to institutionalize that vision that requires planning, an agenda, and a set of goals.
10. Chancellor Gislason said that there are several successful centers already on the UIC campus, and we should talk to them for further insight. Maybe we should have a small committee for this type of discussion and planning.
The CC agreed that the first job is a conversation with Bette Bottoms.

IV. IRB ISSUES

1. Brian began by reviewing the concerns we spoke about at last year's meeting with the Chancellor, concerning the length of time LGBT studies took to get through the IRB process, and problems dealing with youth and gay teens. Brian and Stacey had a meeting last year with the IRB to speak about these concerns.
Update on where we are now: It was felt that there was not enough LGBT expertise on the board. Brian is now serving on IRB Board 2, sharing a seat with Stacey. Tonda Hughes also serves on Board 2. More expertise is now represented in the area of LGBT youth.

2. In general, UIC's reviews take longer than our peer institutions to go through IRB. We are hoping to find out where the problems are, and to make it clearer to those doing LGBT research.
3. Chancellor Gislason was delighted to hear that Brian and Stacey were serving on the board, and he said that this is really the only way to solve this kind of problem.
The Chancellor suggested that we set up a meeting with Larry Danziger, the Interim Vice Chancellor for Research, and Jim Fischer, the Director of the Office for the Protection of Research Subjects. Larry is in the field of human subject protection, and he is a former IRB chair. Bernie noted that a meeting with the Co-Chairs, Brian, Stacey, Jim Fischer, and others is being organized.
4. Stacey said that moving to an online system for IRB approval would make things easier. Chancellor Gislason responded saying that he thinks they are already in the process of moving to online.
5. Stacey spoke about IRB Board 2 being very receptive, gracious and understanding. She is concerned about Boards 1 and 3: is anything happening in them?
The Chancellor suggested we find another volunteer to be on Board 3 – that is the only way to solve the problem.
6. Laura spoke about how we see our role as affirming and positive.

V. CONCLUSION

1. Chancellor Gislason told us that we are doing great work and a wonderful job on raising money!
2. On January 16, 2009 his successor, Paula Allen-Meares will begin her position as UIC Chancellor. Her time on her visits here is tight and she is working very hard. Interim Chancellor Gislason is retiring on February 1, 2009 and going to write a book.
3. After Paula Allen-Meares is officially at UIC for a couple of months, he will recommend that she set up a meeting with each of the Chancellor's Committees.

The last CCSLGBTI meeting of 2008 will be Tuesday, December 9th, from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. in room 346 of the Disability of Health and Social Policy building, 1640 W. Roosevelt.
***Tina Copeland will have a couple of parking stickers available to those who want to drive or carpool.**