

Chancellor's Committee on the Status of LGBT Issues
Minutes from December 9, 2008

In attendance: Teri Blain, Tina Copeland, Melanie D'Andrilli, Brad Elwood, Lauren Irman, Jacqueline Leskovec, Brian Mustanski, Patrick Robinson, Bernie Santarsiero, and Liz Thomson.

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Sub-Committee Updates

1. Co-chair Bernie Santarsiero began the discussion by stressing the importance of fleshing out the sub-committees for the CCSLGBTI and getting people on the committee to join and chair the various sub-committees.
2. Bernie briefly reviewed the duties and important projects for each sub-committee. He discussed the Finance sub-committee putting out an end of the year letter to remind people about our two scholarship funds, the alumni newsletter and talking to the alumni association. For Advocacy and Policy, a project to work on would be putting together a list of UIC faculty to get involved in the IRB. For Curriculum and Pedagogy he discussed Scott Boots' interest in creating a survey and doing research about current LGBT content in classes, and his expressed interest in moving on that project and his own ideas. And for Research and Scholarship Brian Mustanski has been leading the sub-committee for a while and would like to step down from that role; he also discussed the recent meetings with the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research about managing the LGBT Seed fund.

III. New Business

1. Bernie Santarsiero brought up the topic of getting a small group of committee members together to meet with Interim Dean Bette Bottoms about our ideas for the Gender and Sexuality Center and the search for a director.

Brian Mustanski updated the committee on the recent events regarding the search. Brian, Jennie Brier, and John D'Emilio met with Bette Bottoms and Lon Kaufman to talk about how to think about integrating more research into the GSC. The three of them were not there on the behalf of the CCSLGBTI but all three of them had opinions that were similar to those that we have talked about as a committee. The next step is to put a proposal together, and have a small meeting with Bette. John D'Emilio is going to be sending out some e-mails to those who want to be involved in this process.

Tina Copeland expressed concern of not getting rid of the student services and community that the GSC has helped to instill and put in place. Bernie replied to her that that is not what is going to happen: GSC has no research yet, and that is what we want to expand. But right now there are no real resources to do research for the GSC and we are facing a budget cut in January which will make it more difficult.

Patrick Robinson stated that research is #1 at UIC, and he is afraid that money will be usurped for research from the other services the GSC has. He stated that he has not heard about research serving the UIC students any better at all, and wonders how it

will.

Liz Thomson spoke about trying to get an advisory board together by mid-January. Liz met with Bette Bottoms one on one and she seemed to be very supportive of doing a search for a director and of having an interim director in the meantime. Bette's position as Interim is through August 2009 and she is still very new and does not want to make any rash decisions. Liz thinks it is important to have a CCSLGBTI view of the situation, but also for people as individuals to express their own opinions as well.

Bernie Santarsiero emphasized that it is important to only enhance and not cut. Patrick Robinson responded that unless we somehow have a big cash flow, for the GSC to go in a whole new direction we would have to cut services elsewhere.

Bernie reminded everyone that we as the CCSLGBTI have always been supplementing the GSC budget. If people are interested in getting more involved in this process they should contact Brian Mustanski, Bernie, or the other co-chair Francesca Gaiba. John D'Emilio is sending out e-mails so if you want to be involved and have not heard from him, let one of us know.

IV. Budget

1. A historical budget of the CCSLGBTI was sent out via e-mail and also passed out. Bernie made a break down of the historical budget comparing the spending of each year and showing how much we spent in each category. About 45% of our budget usually goes to the CCSLGBTI. About 20% from the last two years has gone to the GSC. About 10% of our budget goes to PRIDE. And about 25% of the budget is left to be used for miscellaneous events.

2. There are two new funding requests. The first is for Alternative Spring Break (ASB). They requested funding for a trip the first week of UIC's winter break, for 10-12 students to travel to Philadelphia, PA to spend a week working with MANNA (Metropolitan AIDS Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance) to prepare food during the day packing and cooking hundreds of meals in the soup kitchen, and in the afternoon hand-delivering meals by van to the HIV-affected communities all over Philadelphia. The majority of the recipients are gay, African American males who live in and around West Philadelphia, areas marked by deep poverty. After a discussion about the goals of this mission and how they coincide with our mission as a committee, we took a vote and agreed to fund \$250 to this ASB trip.

The second funding request was made by Barbara Risman, Professor and Head of the UIC Department of Sociology, for the Council of Contemporary Families Annual Conference, being held here at UIC on April 17 and 18, 2009. The theme of this year's conference is Relationships, Sexuality, and Equality. We discussed this request as a committee and decided we just had too many questions to come to a decision yet: what would the money be used for? How exactly does funding this conference fit in with our mission as a committee? Liz made a suggestion that maybe if we co-sponsor the conference, one or two of us could get in for free, and maybe we could be there and have a banner there to advertise for us. There was no vote and Bernie said he will get back to Barbara Risman with our questions and concerns so we have more concrete information before we approve or deny this funding request.

V. More New Business

1. Brian and Bernie discussed the recent meeting with the IRB. The people at the meeting were very receptive and up front in saying that there have been problems, and having Brian and Stacey Horn on the IRB does help to solve some of those problems. At the meeting they came up with two action items. One is to make a list of researchers on campus to contact. Another is to try to come up with an agreement with Howard Brown that UIC can agree with. UIC previously came up with an agreement on a facilitated review, meaning that if one study is approved by the IRB at UIC, then at Howard Brown they only have to have it reviewed by the chair, and vice versa. Howard Brown agreed on this, and afterwards, UIC took it back. Howard Brown has similar agreements with other institutions, and we want UIC to be one of them.

2. On the topic of research, a discussion began about compiling a list of LGBT research and scholarships going on at UIC and putting it on the CCSLGBTI website. We have done some faculty biographies previously but nothing has been done with them. Patrick Robinson suggested putting links and information for all allies on our website for any students looking or searching for it.

Scott Boots is working on the Curriculum and Pedagogy sub-committee, and he obtained the excel spreadsheet from Liz about Fall 2008 courses that may include LGBT content. This would be in baby steps to creating a big portal. It was suggested that maybe we could use safe zone participants as allies on our website?

3. Sub-committees were brought up in discussion again. Details about alumni outreach with the CCSLGBTI and through UIC in general, and the work of the Finance sub-committee to do alumni outreach was discussed. The alumni newsletter also should be pushed to get out.

Scott Boots needs help in Curriculum and Pedagogy! Jacqueline Leskovec spoke about talking with him previously about helping him with the work.

The Research and Scholarship sub-committee has a good amount of people on it helping out, but Brian would like a chance to rotate off as its co-chair.

Current sub-committee volunteer list:

Finance: Bernie Santarsiero, Tina Copeland, Patrick Robinson, (Teri Blain and Liz Thomson (for the newsletter))

Advocacy and Policy: Laura Stempel, Teri Blain, Mark Martell

Education, Outreach, and Communications: Liz Thomson

Curriculum and Pedagogy: Scott Boots, Brent Braveman, Jacqueline Leskovec

Research and Scholarship: Brian Mustanski, Francesca Gaiba, Jennifer Brier

4. The topic was brought up again about changing the name of the CCSLGBTI. We also threw out the idea of getting a logo and making a banner.

5. Teri Blain, CCSLGBTI's Human Resources Liaison, told us that all the Chancellor's Committees have liaisons, and she could possibly talk to the other liaisons and see what the rest of the CC's are/have been doing...maybe we can put together something for the new Chancellor outlining all of the CC's and what they do and have been doing?

6. The press release statement on the LGBT grants and winners still has not gotten published. There have been many difficulties in getting a response from UIC, even though the statement is already written and ready to go. Brad Elwood from the Study

Abroad Office stated that their department faces difficulties in getting a response from UIC as well. The GSC does not have an assigned contact person for PR.

7. 2009 Healthcare Equality Index – this is a study done on the nation's hospitals about their patient care and procedures in regards to LGBT people. As a committee we want to make sure that UIC Medical Center is included in this study, but in order to do this we need to identify a person in the Medical Center that is in charge of these procedures and ask them to fill it out and give us a copy as well.

Teri Blain does HR for the Medical Center but she is unsure of exactly who would fill it out since there is no longer a hospital HR department.

Patrick Robinson said he meets weekly with two CEO's of nursing and medicine and offered to give the information to them and see if they can find out the correct contact person.

**The next CCSLGBTI meeting will be Tuesday, January 20th, 2009
3:00-4:30pm in room 2650 University Hall**