

Chancellor's Committee on the Status of LGBT Issues
Minutes from February 24, 2009

In attendance: Hope Benson, Teri Blain, Scott Boots, Jennifer Brier, Mike Chikko, Tina Copeland, Melanie D'Andrilli, Francesca Gaiba, Jerry Lockwood, Becky Lowery, Jorge Mena, Jacob Mueller, Bernie Santarsiero, Celina Sima, Liz Thomson, and Richard Williams.

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Sub-Committee Updates

1. Jennifer Brier gave a brief update on the Research and Scholarship subcommittee work with LGBT seed grants. The second round of seed grants funded six projects this time around. The \$20,000 has now been fully given out. This round saw twice as many applications as the first round, and the applications were stronger in this round. The next step is collect reports from the funded investigators, and go back to the David Bohnett Foundation to request more money; the goal is to ask in the summer. Tony Halford and the OVCR (Office for the Vice Chancellor for Research) managed and helped administer this round of applications, and it made the work much easier.

It now needs to be decided on how to save and archive all the applications. Maybe talk to Joey Volpe in the Office of Special Scholarships and see how she does it? Becky Lowery works in the UIC library and she suggested contacting the library to see about archiving through them.

2. Teri Blain has been in contact with HRC regarding filling out the HEI (Health Equality Index) for UIC. We missed the December 31st deadline to complete the survey, but Teri has been in contact with HRC and will be contacted when a copy of this year's results are available (the deadline is in April). UIC will be on the list to complete the survey next year.

III. Budget

1. Alternative Spring Break and the Council on Contemporary Families Conference were both approved for co-sponsorship in the amount of \$250.
2. Reimbursement for the PRIDE students who attended the Midwest BGLTA College Conference is in the works.
3. Currently the CCSLGBTI has spent \$9,546 and has \$9,907 left to spend this fiscal year. Jennie Brier spoke to the importance of spending all our money so it is not lessened in next year's budget. Any upcoming big items that need our funding, please bring them to our attention A.S.A.P. so we can plan the budget accordingly. We have a few thousand dollars of the remaining money allocated for the GSC and Lavender Graduation.

4. Stacey Horn from the College of Education/Illinois Safe Schools Alliance submitted a funding request in the amount of \$515 for the April 28, 2009 event "Visibility Matters." The event is in regards to the recent report of the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, in which UIC was the only institution in Illinois to receive an A. This event will discuss the report, celebrate UIC's achievement, and promote further education and dialogue around these issues. It will be held from 5:30-7:00pm in the Jane Addams Hull House in connection with their Sex Positive Series and will be followed by a showing of "It's Still Elementary: Teaching about LGBT Issues in K-8 Schools." CCSLGBTI put this request to a vote and the funding request was passed in the amount of \$515.
5. Jennie Brier raised the topic of the CCSLGBTI being pro-active in letting word out about our ability and interest in co-sponsorship and outreach among all the other Chancellor's Committees. Co-chairs Bernie Santarsiero and Francesca Gaiba will draft a letter to send to the other CC's. The idea of having a banner created for the committee was raised again as a way to spend some of our money and create more visible publicity.
6. Discussion began about creating a small forum type of event/conference on LGBT/diversity issues, with the other Chancellor's Committees, in lieu of the Meet and Greet we did not hold this semester. Doing outreach with other CC's this way can be just as effective as holding a meet and greet. Maybe create something like the previous BAT (Bringing Administrators Together), for civil service and academic professionals but related to LBGT issues?

IV. New Business

1. All the Chancellor's Committee co-chairs have been invited to a breakfast with the new Chancellor on Monday morning, March 2nd!
2. Presentation from the Master Plan Advisory Committee:
Jacob Mueller and Celina Sima came to present for our committee, while Jerry Lockwood took notes of all our ideas to bring back to other committee members. The Master Plan is trying to collect a variety of opinions on campus and committee members are gathering ideas and information from other groups on campus. The Master Plan deals only with the external campus, and it is not a strategic plan, it focuses on the physical campus.

The Master plan issues list was reviewed (attached at end of minutes) and Celina explained that the main goal for the meeting was to gather information from us.

Four main questions were brought up to discuss:

- What are the best features of UIC's physical appearance?
- What aspects of UIC campus do you find unappealing?
- What issues would you like to see addressed in the new campus master plan?
- What could be done to the campus to improve the experience of students at UIC?

Jacob Mueller stated that our committee is so diverse and it is time for our ideas to be heard!

The ideas discussed:

- Having a more frequent campus shuttle going through east and west campuses; people shouldn't have to rely on CTA to get to and from UIC campuses. Bring back the online bus tracker.
- Red car: the people are rude, make you wait outside, not safe, people don't want to take it. It has turned into a safety issue when people walk late at night to avoid calling red car.
- Internet structure: increase bandwidth and wi-fi availability
- Gender neutral bathrooms. PRIDE is starting a petition to try and get this change made.
- We want to make sure the UIC campus and the hospital are not expanded differently; the hospital is always surveying about expanding and we should be included in this.
- Create a commuter center, and a student nap room.
- Thematic buildings instead of singular disciplinary building. For example, a social issues building, a gender and sexuality building...
- Create a division of animal and non-animal research buildings.
- Lecture centers and halls are confusing with their addresses and trying to direct people to them.
- Close some streets that run through West campus to make UIC a real pedestrian campus.
- The area by the east campus dorms and the art and architecture building is ugly and unpleasant to walk through...and the ComEd part of campus that they still own...take it over!
- The scaffolding around University Hall is embarrassing.

Any other comments, questions, or concerns: e-mail planning@uic.edu and see the website at http://www.uic.edu/master_plan/main.htm

3. Three of the four PRIDE students who attended the Midwest BGLTA College Conference, Hope Benson, Mike Chikko and Jorge Mena came to present to the CCSLGBTI on their experiences at the conference.

This year's conference was February 13-15, 2009, at the University of Indiana in Bloomington. It was broken into 5 sessions, and within each session were various workshops to choose from. The students talked about the workshops they went to, such as: queer people of color, role of internet and gay youth, powerplay – sex and violence, student leadership, political activism within states and universities, hip hop and homophobia, same-sex communication struggles, fundraising ideas, and how to effectively run a panel at a university.

The students agreed that the conference was a great place to network and learn from other LGBT youth at colleges and universities. They collected contact information for other pride groups in our area and met other young people in positions similar to theirs, and felt empowered. PRIDE will be throwing an event called "Eat it all – a queer feast of diversity." Hope spoke about writing up a summary of the event and putting it on the PRIDE website. The students are

turning their focus to the importance of getting gender neutral bathrooms on the UIC campus.

Next year's conference is in Madison, WI. Liz Thomson made the suggestion that one of the PRIDE students present at the conference.

4. We briefly discussed "F to eMbody", a group coming to the Chicago area in March, who asked the CCLGBTI, among other campus entities, if we would like to bring them to campus and sponsor them. The committee decided not to do so right now, but maybe in the future. Liz Thomson will ask if they have a DVD of their work, and there they have performed in the past, to learn more about them and what they do.

5. Gender and Sexuality Center Director Update:
The GSC is having a Town Hall on Thursday, March 12th, from 3:00-5:00pm in 140 BSB. This event will be a facilitated and participatory discussion to gather information, feedback and opinions during the exciting time of change. All are encouraged to attend, and if one cannot attend there will be an online survey as well as something on YouTube and Facebook for students and alumni to provide feedback.

After the GSC Town Hall, information will be gathered and compiled for Bette Bottoms, the Interim Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, by mid-April. Then a meeting with Bette will take place, to discuss the findings and see where to go next. The Town Hall is about a vision, and a job description for the GSC Director cannot be created until there is a clear vision.

Liz Thomson has been named the "Interim GSC Director", but does not use the title until the financial situation is resolved and she is compensated for that duty.

6. Tina Copeland brought up a request for help or more information: she is a member of an Infant Mental Health listserv and has recently come across some disturbing posts to the listserv about gender non-conforming behavior and same-sex parenting. Tina wants to respond intelligently to these posts but is looking for someone with more facts or concrete information on these kinds of issues to help her in creating an intelligent response. The committee suggested contacting Brian Mustanski in the department of Psychiatry, or Patrick Robinson in Nursing.

**The next CCLGBTI meeting will be Tuesday, March 31st, 2009
3:00-4:30pm in the Agape House, 809 W. Roosevelt Road**

Master Plan Issues List

Top Priorities

Enhance Educational Experience
Enable a Longer / Safer Day/Evening/Weekend
Make Movement between Each Side of Campus Easier / Faster / Greener
Facilitate Formal and Informal Opportunities to Learn / Interact / Interconnect
Establish Multiple Inviting Campus Gateways and “Iconic Symbol(s)”
Upgrade Facilities to Match Mission and Reputation
Meet Varied Housing Needs (Family/Staff/International/Graduate Student)
Become More Interdisciplinary / Demolish “Silos” / Discourage Single College Buildings

Campus / Campus Life

Enrich Educational Experience
Enable a Longer / Safer Day/Evening/Weekend
Create More of a Campus Feeling / Add More Open/Green Spaces
Add Features to Brighten an Already Beautiful Campus
Make Movement between Sides of Campus Easier / Faster / Greener
Facilitate Formal and Informal Opportunities to Learn / Interact / Interconnect
Balance Campus Access / Security / History / “Sense of Place”

Identity / Chicago’s Public University

Establish Multiple Inviting Campus Gateways and “Iconic Symbol(s)”
Increase Sense of Pride in UIC / Celebrate Campus Diversity
Enhance Campus Signage / Strengthen Wayfinding
Differentiate Medical Center/Health Sciences Colleges from other IMD Institutions

Facilities

Upgrade Facilities to Match Mission and Reputation
Soften East Side Building Exteriors
Address Graduate Student Needs
Improve Campus Experience for Commuters
Meet Varied Housing Needs (Family/Staff/International/Graduate Student)
Discourage Single College Buildings
Integrate Functions within Buildings
Prepare for Olympics

Organization

Demolish “Silos” / Become More Interdisciplinary
Ensure Greater Awareness of History of Campus / Surrounding Communities
Minimize Need for Parking / Maximize Parking Utilization
Provide / Enable More Infant and Child Care
Collaborate More with IMD, CTA, University Village Merchants, & other Neighbors to
Address Common Challenges