

Chancellor's Committee on the Status of LGBT Issues
Minutes From March 19, 2008

In attendance: Scott Boots, Jennie Brier, Melanie D'Andrilli, Patrick Finnessey, Lon Kaufman, Tom Koster, Robbie Lopez, Brian Mustanski, Bernie Santarsiero, Laura Stempel.

A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

B. DISCUSSION ON SPLITTING THE L-G-B-T FOR OCTOBER HERITAGE MONTH – Pros and Cons

1. Jennie Brier and Laura Stempel wanted to speak about their concerns with splitting up the L-G-B-T for October Heritage Month events. CCSLGBTI was chosen to be in charge of planning a 'G' event, and Laura and Jennie spoke of their concerns that dividing up LGBT will divide us as a community even more.

Laura spoke regarding the fact that she was upset that there was no discussion about this decision before it was made for the committee, because it was decided previously at a QUIC meeting by those present on the QUIC committee. She was unhappy that we as the CCSLGBTI had no say and were just told what we are doing.

Jennie spoke about her fears that this year's programming will be exclusive rather than inclusive, which is what the office has been doing well in the past years, being inclusive. She asked how splitting up LGBT will guarantee more inclusion.

Patrick Finnessey responded that if the OGLBTC, or the CCSLGBTI, does an event, only a certain group of people come, and he thought that if all the groups are planning an event, it would be more likely that more people will show up.

Jennie then spoke of her fear that only lesbians will go to the L event, only gay men to the G event, etc.

Co-chairs Bernie Santarsiero and Robbie Lopez then spoke, saying that they do not see the harm in trying something different to see how it might work. People in QUIC were trusted to make decisions without always having to consult with the CCSLGBTI every time.

Scott Boots suggested that it would be helpful for the CCSLGBTI to be provided with more information on QUIC and its process, how decisions are made, and the levels of feedback.

The discussion concluded, while people still had their opinions about the possible effectiveness or ineffectiveness of this programming idea, to continue on with it and trust that QUIC will be the body that will oversee all the event planning and make sure that the events will be inclusive and will take other people's suggestions into consideration when planning these events.

C. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

1. Research & Scholarship

- a. Brian Mustanski spoke about the potential grant of \$20,000 from David Bonitch, that would be used to help create an LGBT research fund. The guy from the foundation will be coming to visit in April to talk about it. The other potential grant, from Arcus, would be a grant through OVCR, and the department of Psychiatry has agreed to be the housing unit for this grant.
- b. Brian talked about moving forward with the IRB, and Robbie Lopez helping to set up a forum next fall that we will co-sponsor. We should discuss who our target audiences should be for this event.

D. BUDGET UPDATE

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. The first annual Lavender Research Forum went well. Bernie talked about it setting a good template for next year, and he already has a few people interested in speaking at next year's event. Jennie Brier, who presented at the LRF, spoke about how much she enjoyed hearing about other faculty's work and thinks this is important to do, and was very productive. Brian Mustanski agreed with her.
This year there were no poster presentations made by students, and Jennie suggested that to encourage more students to partake in this event next year we should try advertising it in classes, such as GWS 203 and 403, to get the word out.
2. Lon Kaufman, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs, was present at our meeting, in an effort to try to learn about the relationships between our committee, and all Chancellor's Committees, and our goals and roles. Co-chairs Bernie and Robbie told Lon they would send him a copy of our Strategic Plan, so he would be able to learn more in depth information about our committee.
Bernie and Robbie spoke about campus climate being a main concern for our committee, and how we have been more recently involved with co-sponsoring other events. Part of our budget goes to the OGLBTC to ensure that they can put programs on.
3. The committee discussed possible ideas for the October "G" event. The month's theme is physical and mental health. As a committee we are responsible for planning one main event, but this is not the only event we can plan for the month.
The committee discussed wanting to focus the event around the blood drive issue we have been involved with lately. Maybe get a celebrity and an expert on blood issues to talk? Bring a gay or lesbian to the blood bank? Jennie Brier, who is writing a book on the history of the AIDS

epidemic, was suggested as a featured speaker, and the committee seemed to like this idea and was going to follow up with her about it.

4. Scott Boots, on behalf of the College of Dentistry, submitted a co-sponsorship request to the committee for \$750, to bring in a group from St. Louis to make a presentation to the College of Dentistry about sexual orientation and homophobia in the workplace, on Tuesday, May 13. Our committee approved this request. Laura Stempel told Scott she would ask Lon, the provost, and others if they would also be willing to contribute to this event, because more money is still needed.

The last meeting of the semester is Wednesday, April 16th, at 3:00pm, in room 183 BSB.