

Chancellor's Committee on the Status of LGBT Issues
Minutes from September 22, 2009

In attendance: Teri Blain, Scott Boots, Brent Braveman, Melanie D'Andrilli, John D'Emilio, Trevor Gates, Becky Lowery, Alicia Matthews, Lisl Heymans Paul, Liz Thomson, David Weible, and James Young.

I. Welcome and Introductions

All CCSLGBTI meeting attendees were welcomed by co-chair Scott Boots as well as Reverend Lisl Heymans Paul of the Agape House. Lisl expressed to the committee that the Agape House is a great location to host any event and if we ever needed a space to meet, or to hold an event, to feel free to contact her and she would be more than happy to work with us.

II. Budget Update

1. The GSC co-sponsorship request for \$2,000 has been approved. We will be using \$2,000 from our budget to help fund the keynote speaker for October Heritage Month. GSC Interim Director Liz Thomson thanked the committee for the support and encouraged everyone to come out to any of the October Heritage Month events they can, especially on 9/30/09 to the Opening Keynote with Reception: Queer Economics, featuring M.V. Lee Badgett, Ph.D. Chancellor Meares and Bette Bottoms will be in attendance on 9/30 and the more people in attendance and support of the event, the better first impression they will receive.
2. There is a forthcoming co-sponsorship request coming from the UIC Sexuality Disability Consortium (SDC). We are awaiting their completion of our co-sponsorship request form. An e-mail will be sent out when the co-sponsorship request form is submitted and a vote will be done after that.

III. New Business

1. Announcements: No date set yet for the meeting with the Chancellor. Please note our October meeting date is changed to 10/13/09. All are encouraged to attend GSC's Transgender Health, Health Care & Transitioning Costs Panel Discussion on 10/20, from 3:00-4:40PM in room 1171 BSB.
2. The draft list of sub-committee members was handed out. If there are any mistakes or anyone wants to be added to another sub-committee, please notify Graduate Assistant Melanie at mdandr2@uic.edu
Scott Boots gave a brief overview of what each sub-committee wanted to focus and work on this academic year. He stated that the goal is for each sub-committee to meet or talk once a month and come up with actionable goals for the semester. Scott also reminded members to continue to think about other people who may be interested in issues the CCSLGBTI is working on, and get them to come and join us.
3. John D'Emilio was present at the meeting to give an update on the latest proposal for the expansion of the GSC mission. He gave a brief history of how this mission first started. It began November 2008 when Dr. Patrick Finnessey was departing as

Director of the GSC. John, along with Brian Mustanski, Jennifer Brier and others, began drafting a rationale for an expanded GSC to include a research center. In June 2009, a draft was brought to Bette Bottoms, asking if we were on the right track. Bette was non-committal and said the draft needed more to persuade the Provost. She suggested it needed three things: 1. What would the center do? 2. What value would be added to the University and how? 3. Why have the center inside the GSC, instead of being an independent center? After that meeting, a new draft was created, but many questions were still present. This is where John is at currently and has presented the latest draft to the CCSLGBTI; he is at the limit of his knowledge and needs any input that would be helpful.

The Blue Ribbon Panel was discussed. The Provost is now creating a small review committee to evaluate all the Centers for Diversity, which includes the GSC, and we are still confused as to what this means exactly. The review will happen in October or November. But the GSC is still very interested in having CCSLGBTI input in the GSC mission. Liz Thomson will submit five names to Bette for suggestions of members of the review committee. Contact Liz if you are interested in having your name considered.

It was emphasized that ANYONE who has any ideas or input to this current draft, please contact John D'Emilio (demilioj@aol.com). He is in need of brainstorming and ideas from other people.

An e-mail statement from Brian Mustanski, who was unable to attend this meeting, was read. Brian is very supportive of establishing a LGBT center on campus and hopes the CCSLGBTI understands that this could happen one of two ways: one is a stand alone research center that is relatively unconnected to outreach and student services, and the second is a center that links the two together. There are pros and cons of both, including that if they are done separately it may mean duplication of some activities, lack of clarity on roles for some things, and insufficient budgets for either to reach their full potential.

4. Bernie Santarsiero was unable to attend the meeting but wanted his ideas expressed. Bernie would be happy to chair the Research and Scholarship sub-committee. What that committee wishes to accomplish this year is: 1. Spring Lavender Research Forum (if the committee agrees), or some type of campus-wide research program. 2. Compile a list of faculty carrying out LGBT research, which would strengthen the effort to include "research" under the GSC banner. 3. To carry out a targeted fund drive with alumni. This might include finally getting out our first issue of a newsletter for alumni, in collaboration with the GSC and the Alumni office.

Bernie is also interested in seeing if the CCSLGBTI could sponsor a panel discussion on campus with someone from GLMA, Red Cross, and AMA on blood donation. As he noted in the last CCSLGBTI meeting, the 2006 FDS workshop was a close vote on changing the policy to a small window for gay men donation.

5. Scott spoke about working sub-committees meeting at the end of CCSLGBTI monthly meetings, if time permits. It is hoped that the monthly meetings will be kept as short as possible in order to allow working sub-committees time to meet with each other. This will help the monthly meetings along, so that each sub-committee can come back and report during the general meeting about what they

have been doing, instead of having long debates and discussions on what they might do.

Teri Blain spoke about her goal to best manifest her role to us as the HR liaison. Any HR issues that come up will be brought back through Teri to the Vice Chancellor. Any issues, especially domestic partnership issues, which she has already begun to bring up with the Vice Chancellor, she will bring back to her office.

The members present broke into their working sub-committees for the duration of the meeting.

The next CCSLGBTI meeting will be on October 13th, 3:30 – 4:45PM on west campus in room 3074 MBRB (enter on Marshfield side ONLY)