

LGBT Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2006, 2:00 pm

Bolton Hall, Room B-72

Present: Cheryl Andres, Todd Biedermann, Michele Bolduc, Yves LaPierre, Cheryl Andres, Justin Mayer, Bri Smith, Sarah Morgan, Janice Warren. Excused: Michael Doyle, Peter Rosenblatt. Absent: Beth Warner.

I. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm.

II. Change in focus for Marriage Amendment Forums.

After receiving guidance from Tony Lemelle regarding the limitations this committee has on voicing its concerns about the proposed Marriage Amendment, it was unanimously agreed that we must frame all future actions under the umbrella of “education,” e.g., listing reasons this committee is concerned about the possible ramifications of the amendment. In essence, it is not appropriate for this committee to tell the University community to vote “no” on the amendment.

Committee members made suggestions for possible dates for a fall forum:

- September – during “Welcome Back” week activities ?
- October 10 or 11 to coincide with “Coming Out Week” activities, and to be offered in conjunction with the LGBT Center’s activities.

III. Report from the Council on Inclusion.

Yves reported on recent activities of the Council on Inclusion.

- The Council as a whole appears to be receptive to this committee’s list of concerns and supports our actions.

Yves noted that the Faculty Senate still wants to take up the issue. They have asked him to make a presentation.

IV. Bylaws.

Michelle presented the final draft of this committee’s bylaws. The committee unanimously approved the final version of the bylaws. The next step is to forward them to Tony Lemelle, who will then forward them to Rita Cheng, and then finally to the Chancellor.

VI. Year-End Committee Report.

The committee discussed future activities it would like to pursue, for inclusion in our year-end report to Tony Lemelle.

- Development of a survey on campus climate. The last survey was done in 1994.

- Transgender issues: e.g., gender neutral bathrooms, dorm issues, Norris Health Center issues.
- Consideration of possible changes to current staff benefits should the Marriage Amendment pass.
- Representation from this committee with the UW-System Inclusivity Initiative group on LGBT issues.
- Securing “press” coverage of this committee’s activities in communications to University staff, e.g., letting the campus community know of our existence, providing an avenue for soliciting membership, announcement of educational forums on the Marriage Amendment.
- Obtain more web space for this committee and ask for a link on the UWM web page to the LGBT Center and LGBT Advisory Committee sites. Have an area where students/staff can report LGBT issues/concerns. Provide links to let people know where to go for help.
- Presentation of a forum on this committee’s existence.

V. Adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Mayer