

December 8, 2003

Minutes of the Advisory Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Issues

Present: Roy Badger; Todd Biedermann; John Blaszczyk; Roberta Hanus; Anthony Hightower; Gloria Kopke (Co-Chair); Yves LaPierre; John McCaw (Co-Chair); Steve Miller; Debbie Renard.

Excused: Jeffrey Merrick; Ellen Semran

The meeting began at 2:00 pm in Chapman 306.

1. The minutes of the November 10, 2003 meeting were approved.
2. With the ultimate aim of creating a campus climate survey that focuses on sexual orientation issues, the Committee reviewed and discussed potential questions and demographic inquiries as stated on the Task Force on the Status of Women Survey. The Committee decided that all items from this survey, adjusted to reflect LGBT concerns, had potential to be very useful, and thus ought to be included in our survey.
3. The Committee discussed the upcoming meeting (Wednesday, December 10 at 1:00 pm in Chapman 310) with Dean Anderko of the School of Nursing, as part of an effort to address recent incidents in Cunningham Hall that appear specifically and unfairly to target LGBT informational materials. It was determined that, at this meeting, the Committee would discuss with the Dean how informational materials might successfully be displayed in Cunningham Hall. The Committee also discussed other strategies related to improving LGBT visibility and campus climate in Cunningham Hall and elsewhere on campus.
4. Roberta proposed to the Committee an idea that would help to strengthen LGBT visibility on campus, particularly with regard to how the LGBT community is perceived: "Parking Fairies." On a rotating basis, members of UWM's LGBT community would occasionally or regularly organize into small groups, visit various parking lots on campus, and feed meters with the intent of reducing the burden of parking tickets. As part of this coordinated good deed, the group would leave on each car a note that lets the driver know that a member of the LGBT community—a "Parking Fairy"—helped the driver avoid getting a ticket. Roberta's idea was met with enthusiasm, and we will explore this proposal as we investigate the logistics and ramifications of the idea.
5. The role of Co-Chair was briefly discussed, and John M. agreed to remain a Co-Chair for the academic year.
6. The Committee next discussed UWM's yearly United Way campaign. Even though the Committee was not able to develop a campus-wide response this year's campaign, we will begin to map out a strategy for an educational counter-campaign for the 2004 United Way drive. Gloria will continue to ask Joan Prince (in charge of 2003's United Way campaign on campus) about how the decisions are made for UWM's involvement in the first place.
7. The Committee briefly discussed the need to continue gathering information on blood drives held on campus. Sponsored agencies such as the Red Cross generically discriminate against LGBT donation of blood, and this presents a conflict of interest with UWM's policies of non-discrimination.
8. In January, John M. will ask LGBT Advisory Committee members to submit a list of days/times/dates during which they cannot attend Advisory Committee meetings. By the end of January, John will develop a working calendar of meeting dates for the Committee.
9. The Committee was reminded about the Caucus lunch scheduled for 12:00 noon, December 16 at Carini's.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Kopke (Co-Chair)
John McCaw (Co-Chair)