

LGBT Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2005, 3:00 pm

Holton Hall, Room 241

Present: Roy Badger, Todd Biedermann, Michele Bolduc, Roberta Hanus, Anthony Hightower, Justin Mayer, John McCaw, Sarah Morgan. Excused: Tony Harris, Yves LaPierre, Peter Rosenblatt, Bri Smith

I. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm.

II. Approval of April 2005 minutes.

A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was approved.

III. Membership and Chairing for 2005-2006.

John and Michelle reported that Dev has written and sent letters to the Academic Staff and University Committees, Human Resources (for classified staff), and the Dean of Students to alert these groups to our openings for the coming academic year. Discussion took place regarding how the process of recruiting new members should take place. A suggestion was made to have a provision in the by-laws with regard to attendance. Michelle said that she would like to see if this committee could have a say in the screening process. John felt that Dev should be told who/what type of member we are looking for. It was John and Michelle's conclusion that new appointments would not be made until after June. Michelle asked for volunteers for co-chair in the coming year. Justin volunteered to be a co-chair along with Peter and Michelle for 2005-2006. Peter has indicated that he would serve as co-chair, but would not be able to make all meetings due to work commitments. Michelle will schedule a meeting with Dev at which she, Peter and Justin will discuss the appointment process.

3:20pm A. Hightower arrived.

IV. Committee Tasks and Activities for 2005-2006.

The following suggestions were made by the committee for possible tasks and activities:

- Military Recruitment on campus (given the UW System's non-discriminatory stand).
- Continued pursuit of gender-neutral bathrooms in the Student Union.
- Discriminatory practices of some United Way agencies (e.g. Boy Scouts) and the need to inform the University community during the annual SECC campaign.
- Domestic Partner Benefits for UWM employees.
- Statistical analysis of data collected in a survey of women's (and related LGBT) issues on campus.

On a related note, Sarah noted that the Union has now resisted the plans for a gender neutral bathroom. She feels that Scott Gore has changed his mind regarding the bathroom because of some questionable Wisconsin building

codes. Sarah feels that she and Yves have come up with a solution to the problem; however, Scott Gore wants to convert a bathroom near the loading dock for \$20,000 for an ADA single-use bathroom.

A. Hightower noted that it is rare for any one person to unilaterally make a decision of this scope on campus. It was suggested that Dev could make the point that this type of discrimination against the proposed bathroom is a climate issue. Michelle suggested a plea be sent by the committee to pursue this via a letter to Dev.

Roy B. reminded the group that the Union (and for that matter, Sandburg Hall) are entities that are separate from other campus buildings.

Michelle asked the committee for its thoughts on whether the LGBT Advisory Committee should have representation on the Council on Inclusion. It was agreed that this committee would benefit from formalizing the communication between these committees. It was noted that Yves represents the LGBT Resource Center, but not this committee. Anthony H. indicated that Joan Prince is the “point person” and that the committee’s concerns about representation should be directed to her in writing, with Dev cc’d. Anthony felt that it was simply an oversight that the committee had not been approached for representation. Michelle will draft a letter to Joan Prince asking for representation by this committee on the Council on Inclusion.

V. Discussion of Development of Bylaws.

Michelle will schedule a meeting with Dev so that she, Peter, Todd, and Justin can discuss the adoption of by-laws. Michelle will ask Dev to see if the committee can be allotted a budget for letterhead and other administrative expenses.

VI. Summer Meetings.

It was the committee’s consensus that it will “play it by ear” when it comes to scheduling meetings over the summer. John M. suggested having 1 or 2 meetings during the summer to finalize “speak-out” panelists for fall/spring 2005-2006.

VII. New Business.

Michelle posed a question to the committee as to whether an “ad hoc sub-committee,” consisting of members and non-members, could be established to assist with the booking of upcoming “speak-out” speakers. Michelle asked Roberta if she would be interested in continuing in that capacity. Michelle will speak with Dev V. to see if the ad-hoc committee would be appropriate.

Michelle thanked John M., Roy B., and Roberta H. for each of their two years of service to the committee.

VIII. Old Business.

There was no old business.

IX. Adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Mayer