

November 10, 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), Jeffrey Merrick, Debbie Renard, and Ellen Semran. Guest: Sona Andrews

Excused: Steve Miller

The meeting began at 2:00 pm.

1. The minutes of the October 6, 2003 meeting were approved.
2. Sona Andrews provided an update on the Domestic Partnership Policy. According to Sona, the various campus groups that needed to review the document have done so. The document has generally met with approval with these groups, except for item 7 of the policy (the “functional definition” of a relationship). Sona suggested that the Committee remove item 7, a change that the Committee approved. The proposed Policy in its changed form will then go to the Provost and the Interim Chancellor.
3. The Committee wishes to express gratitude and thanks to Sona for working so hard to help make the Domestic Partnership Policy a reality.
4. The Committee next discussed UWM’s campaign on behalf of the United Way, a campaign currently in progress. The Committee has previously entertained the possibility of launching an educational campaign to inform the university community of the United Way’s acceptance of the Boy Scouts’ discriminatory policies, but due to time, money, and planning constraints, any sort of response of the sort has been tabled for now. However, in the Spring of 2004, the Committee will revisit the project of an educational campaign as described, and at that time will begin to lay the foundation for a well-organized and well-timed response to UWM’s involvement in the United Way campaign. In the meantime, the Committee is in the process of finding out how the decision is made to involve the UWM campus in the United Way campaign.
5. The Committee continued discussion of the suspicious incident at Cunningham Hall earlier this semester, an incident in which LGBT informational materials were removed from a table and discarded, while other cultural materials were left undisturbed. This incident, noticed and brought up by John B., led John to discuss the matter with Faye Spoor, who in turn said would contact the Dean of Nursing and building manager of Cunningham. After John’s talk with her, the table—along with all cultural materials—disappeared.

Since the time this incident was brought to the attention of the Committee, Anthony Hightower talked to Dean Lundeen in order to investigate the issue, and as a result of this talk, said that Dean Lundeen has expressed a desire to help resolve the problem. John retold his understanding of the situation, and expressed his concern that she may not, in fact, be disposed to help in finding a resolution. This led the Committee to a discussion about campus climate concerns, including how the university handles the collection and distribution of information and media on

campus. Jeffrey suggested that we proactively approach different schools regarding how to deal with issues of this sort.

6. The Committee agreed to meet with Dean Anderko of Nursing as Anthony offered to set up a meeting to see how we could resolve the issue of a seemingly “unwelcome and hostile environment” for LGBT in the College of Nursing.

7. Announcements were made that the Ally Program Kick-off was a big success, with over 70 people attending. Unfortunately, the news about the annual PrideFest celebration is that it is in dire need of monetary support of \$45,000 by the end of the year in order to have any chance of remaining solvent and being held in 2004. An “emergency town hall” meeting will be held on November 12, at 7 pm in the Milwaukee Room of the Union.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Kopke (Co-Chair)

John McCaw (Co-Chair)