

LGBT Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2005, 3:00 pm
Bolton Hall, Room 191

Present: Cheryl Andres, Todd Biedermann, Michele Bolduc, Moreen Carvan, Yves LaPierre, Justin Mayer, Sarah Morgan, Bri Smith, Janice Warren. Excused: Anthony Hightower, Peter Rosenblatt, Beth Warner

I. Call to order.

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

II. Introductions.

III. Setting Year's Agenda and Meeting Times.

The following activities were identified as possible projects for this year's LGBT Advisory Committee:

1. Yves reported that during the spring 2005 semester the LGBT Resource Center would like to sponsor a presentation by Jason West (the mayor from New Paltz, NY who performed marriage ceremonies for several same-sex couples in 2004). Sponsorship for the event would be sought from the LGBT Community Center, Center Advocates, and possibly the Green Party. Yves encouraged this committee's involvement.
2. Sarah and Yves reported on the status of the "gender neutral" restroom project in the student Union. This past summer funds were allocated and remodeling was completed to change an existing women's restroom into a gender neutral facility. While a positive step, the committee agreed that additional gender neutral facilities are needed, not only in the Union, but across campus as well. Yves proposed that the committee draft a policy that addresses the need for setting standards for future campus remodeling projects involving restrooms. This policy could then be forwarded on to the Physical Environment Committee for consideration.
3. Bri reported that there is a push underway to change the name of the current Women's Studies at UWM to, "Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies." Currently, universities across the country are considering ending Women's Studies programs. In an effort to become more inclusive and widen the scope of such programs, many programs are changing their names to include gender and sexuality issues. Sarah commented that UWM currently has only a certificate program in LGBT studies. Changing the name of the current Women's Studies program and moving the LGBT certificate to Women's Studies could pave the way for a minor in LGBT studies. Bri will send an email message to the committee asking for its support at the meeting when the name change will be considered.
4. Committee members concurred that continued sponsorship of forums to educate the campus community on the upcoming marriage amendment is

still an important charge of this committee. Discussion centered on the focus of these forums. Do we focus on political views? Do we include discussion from individuals on both sides of the issue? Do we include clergy, and if so, in a separate forum or along with legislative speakers? Bri, Janice and Cheryl volunteered to meet with Anthony Hightower to ask for funds to help pay for these events. Several committee members voiced concerns about possible conflicts of interest between university employees and campaign activities. It was agreed that the committee should limit its involvement exclusively to educating the campus community, and that it should not get involved in the support of certain candidates or political parties. It was the consensus of the members that April would be a good target date for forum(s) – to possibly coincide with LGBT Center’s presentation with Jason West.

5. Michelle, Peter and Moreen will continue to work on drafting a set of committee bylaws. New Assoc Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Increasing the visibility of the committee, Increasing length of terms, Staggering appointments, etc

IV. Other Topics of Discussion.

1. Council on inclusion – Council continues to grow in membership. Yves (at present this committee’s rep) will attempt to push the council to propose 1 or 2 initiatives with regard to LGBT issues. Yves will continue to report on the council’s agendas
2. Campus diversity training
3. Committee members agreed that the second Monday of each month at 2:00pm will be the best time for our meetings. Justin will book Bolton Hall 191 for future meetings.

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20pm

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Mayer