

LGBTQA Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Room M2, Adelbert Hall

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Sarah Andrews
Christopher Bell
Mayo Bulloch
Emily Cole
Jane Daroff

Quentin Jamieson
Chris Jennewein
Hollie McGivern
Dorothy Miller

Dean Patterson
Liz Roccoforte
Jes Sellers
Lynn Singer

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by co-chair Dr. Jes Sellers, University Counseling Services.

1. Update on LGBT Center Liz Roccoforte
Liz Roccoforte, Interim Program Coordinator for the LGBT Center, updated the committee on the LGBT Center, which had its soft opening this summer. The grand opening dedication ceremony will be this Friday, October 1, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. Liz passed around the official invitation to the dedication. The Center has plants, a bulletin board, and a lockable desk now, which makes the space more workable. Events coming up: the documentary *Out In The Silence*, presented by the Center and Equality Ohio, will be shown on Tuesday, October 5, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. in the 1914 Lounge in Thwing Center. Liz is looking for a few people for a short panel discussion to take place after the film. National Coming Out Day is October 11. Three conversation groups have been formed: GenderQueer, Female-Identified, and Coming Out. The groups have about four to eight attendees at each session, and the GenderQueer group is very well attended. Liz is co-facilitating the groups with her student employees, Brennan and Fatima, and it's going well. Fatima has created a survey for people to take to indicate what events they would like to see in the future. Liz is starting to plan programming for the spring semester.
2. Announcements All
 - Co-chair Sarah Andrews, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs at Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, announced that Mandel Allies has no student leaders this year. An alumna, Kathleen Vogtsberger, is currently leading the group.
 - Quentin Jamieson announced that Drew Dennis will be the new professional student representative to the committee and Christopher Bell will be the new graduate student representative. Drew was unable to attend the meeting but introductions were made for Chris.
3. Alumni Weekend and LGBT Center Dedication Emily Cole
Emily Cole, Assistant Director of the Alumni Affinity Programs in Alumni Relations, updated the committee on the events of Alumni Weekend and the LGBT Center dedication. Saturday, October 2, there will be an LGBT alumni business meeting for anyone interested in the affinity group. The meeting will be at Mandel Center and will include a continental breakfast. For the Center dedication on Friday, October 1, Emily has approximately 70 RSVP's so far. The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio and Equality Ohio will be sending representatives to attend. The dedication begins at 5:00 p.m. in the Thwing Atrium outside of the Center. President Barbara Snyder will give the welcome speech at 5:15 p.m., and other speakers include Mary Ostendorf, who is a double alumna of the School of Nursing and also an advocate of the domestic partnership registry, and Liz Roccoforte,

Interim Program Coordinator of the LGBT Center and Diversity Program Manager in the Office of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equal Opportunity. After the speakers, the ribbon will be cut and people will be invited to tour the Center and mingle. Eldred Theatre is donating a prize package with tickets to *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, showing Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of Alumni Weekend.

A photographer and the *Observer* will be at the dedication, and they will also be videotaping the speeches.

4. Douglas Nock Scholarship Jes Sellers
Dr. Jes Sellers, co-chair and director of University Counseling Services, and Emily Cole met with Douglas Nock. The scholarship announcement is on the LGBT website and this year's deadline is October 1. It is an undergraduate scholarship for an engineering, math or science student with financial need. \$1000 will be given out this year; Jes is not sure what the amount will be next year. Next spring the scholarship will also be available to incoming freshmen who demonstrate financial need and have advanced the mission of LGBT issues or who have been involved in the LGBT community. This scholarship includes allies. Starting next spring the deadline for applications will be in April.
5. Other Business All
- Jes announced that PFLAG is offering a reception in the LGBT Center following the movie *Stonewall Uprising*, which is showing at the Cleveland Museum of Art. The movie is at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 13, and the reception at the Center will start at about 8:15 p.m.
 - Liz updated the committee on the revised Domestic Partnership Affidavit. Human Resources has been in contact with the Office of General Counsel, which is finishing the language on the affidavit. If you have a legal marriage license from another state, it will be honored by the university, as will people on the Cleveland domestic partnership registry. When the new affidavit is finished, the Center will have an informational brown bag lunch session.
 - Several committee members asked Liz how Safe Zone is going. The Graduate Student Senate executive committee recently had a Safe Zone training. Liz wants to train facilitators so that she is not the only person who can do training sessions. There is a Safe Zone open session scheduled for November. Dean Patterson, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, suggested that Residence Life employees would be good facilitators to train.
 - Jes announced that the University Counseling Services and PFLAG will have two teams walking for the Community Suicide Prevention Walk on Sunday, October 3 at 6:00 p.m. at the Cleveland Zoo. LGBT youth are four to five times more at risk for suicide than their straight peers.
 - Sarah Andrews announced that there will be a day-long anti-bullying conference at Crossroads, a youth counseling center in Lake County, on Friday, November 5. When she inquired as to if they will be discussing bullying of LGBT youth, she was told no, that the community is too conservative, the clergy will be upset, and that they don't have that problem. Sarah emailed people and she and several people from University Counseling Services will be attending and will raise the issue. In conjunction with that, the magazine *Teaching Tolerance* from the Southern Poverty Law Center has released a new DVD kit, *Bullied: A Student, a School, and a Case That Made History*, a documentary of a student dealing with anti-gay bullies. MSASS will be doing a program on the documentary and has ordered one for their library. Anti-LGBT bullying is a huge issue, especially locally: five Mentor school district children have completed suicides in the past two years, and at least two of the students were victims of gay-related bullying.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.
Minutes by Hollie McGivern.