GLBT Meeting
July 28, 2004
10:00–11:30 a.m.
Adelbert 351

Attendees: Don Feke
Kathy Karipides
Dorothy Miller
Glenn Nicholls
Sue Nickel-Schindewolf
Dean Patterson
Pat Princehouse
Jes Sellers
Rick Settersten
Lynn Singer
Jillian Woldorf
Vicki Cleveland

Goal to assess issues; what can be done better. Lynn received phone call re what can be
done about gay/lesbian issues; no one from administration attended Lavender Ball;
problem of administration not getting involved and not doing enough.

Pat Princehouse showed examples of posters on campus being altered, referred to article re FMLA, talked about chalkings in front of library.

Posters and chalkings are result of organized effort. A lot of thought and work went into them. Security was called; they had no information.

USG should be involved to gather information.

Regarding student who was harassed in dorm: harassed by students, people wrote on her
dorm door, student didn’t mention harassment for a long time, student will return to
campus but will not live in dorm.

Response: RAs should be contacted, make it a hall council issue, be vigilant on
followup, change university culture (opportunity with SAGES), Vision program (effort to
change culture), embrace culture to change—not to react.

Give message to all undergraduates: university makes commitment to freedom of
speech, they are protected from issues intended to destroy people. This message should
come from the President.

Specifics mentioned with different groups of people, use creative language, all groups
addressed (women are open season).

Message organized: T shirts can be used (as in Take Back the Night)
Campaign: the university is a safe place

Office/staff responsible
--safe space initiative
--policies adopted

Faculty is also uncomfortable, not only students.

Case Magazine: issues addressed pp. 10-13

Other schools referred to: CMU, Emory, Washington University, Dartmouth

Case: Spectrum/FMLA – no statement made
Office of Multicultural Affairs – no statement made
Nowhere to direct students
There is a need of faculty and staff committee for support.

There is a need for university-wide events, initiatives, programs, GLBTQ&A. A number of events need to take place to change university climate. Student organizations are not enough.

All action has come through student action. Problem exists in the lack of formal office.

Stanford University example offers key.

Create website to address issues.

Spectrum membership (university lay people); most members are men; lesbians are invisible; women of color are invisible: must change culture so they don’t stay invisible.

Women students are still told by faculty that they shouldn’t be here. University is a split-personality.

Policy passed through Faculty Senate regarding personal relationships between faculty and students.

There is a need of a stronger statement from the President and Provost.

University should challenge what the students believe.

SAGES—teach students what is important. (MSASS teaches course—make it available university wide.)

Address issues at teacher orientation, free speech fair.
Bring diversity awareness in curriculum; students are unaware of sexual harassment policy (sexual assault victim was referred to who was given no support from university and parents).

Issues should be made available and mandatory to faculty, staff, students (flyers to students from the President)

Make mandatory courses – core requirement courses; students will respond.

Create and send out brochure.

Declare Friday for observation of issues.

Invite a speaker to address hate crimes, tolerance, issues that will draw interested people. (LS stated that permission gotten from Provost to bring in a speaker.)

Students need to see faculty as people with problems; share with students personal issues.

Create faculty association to address their issues.

Religious tolerance should also be addressed.

Eight cell matrix: Undergraduate
Graduate
Faculty
Staff
Alumni
Targeting and Improve life
Educate Others

Constant posturing confirms message.

Send emails with specific issues.

GLBT under assault in Ohio. Referendum on November ballot re domestic partnership revocation.

Plan for future: Definitely meet again
Think about idea of commission
Focus on GLBT issues
Community forum
Funding
Website – critical
TA training (funded by Provost’s Office);
NSF – TAs accommodate training
Specific Plan:

President’s speech
Faculty orientation
Student orientation (nothing planned this year)
Welcome Days: social for parents and students; organizations have booths

President should make statement using the terms: Gay, Lesbian, Transgender; address the issues of tolerance and diversity, make statement about posters. Statement should be made at future events, put statement on website. Statement should state action and details of action.

Suggested that our President organize with other university presidents re domestic partnership policy.