LGBTA COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2010
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
THWING CENTER, MEETING ROOM A

ATTENDANCE:

Sarah Andrews, co-chair          Hollie McGivern
Mayo Bulloch                     Dorothy Miller
Jane Daroff, co-chair            Mel Morgan
Quentin Jamieson                 Sue Nickel-Schindewolf
Chris Jennewein                  Liz Roccoforte
Ryan Keytack                     Jes Sellers, co-chair
Rob Kinsey                      Lynn Singer

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by the co-chairs.

1. **Branding the New Center and University Announcements** – Dr. Jes Sellers
   Rob Kinsey has been working with Lara Kalafatis and Glenn Bieler of University Relations on the “re-branding effort” for the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Center. A stylized version of the name is on our website and appears without commas or symbols such as “&”. This recommendation was encouraged by the donor, who has considerable expertise in business and in marketing. It is hoped that the naming rights for such a center will be an option for a major donor in the future.

   **Rebranding of the title of the Committee** – Dr. Jes Sellers
   Jes requested that the committee reconsider its name and follow the same for the Center, viz., “Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Committee”, sans the “A” for “Allies.” He suggested it would align the committee to the Center and reduce any confusion for individuals seeking us out on campus and through the Internet. A Google search summary illustrating the most common to least common results by name for LGBT revealed the most common (10 million) was LGBT, while LGBTA received only 24,000. Jes represented the donor’s additional perspective that other university groups do not list “Allies” in their titles, e.g., African American Society.

   A discussion among the members ensued on what the committee should be called. It was changed on the website to reflect the change in the Center’s name; however, since the committee is separate from the Center, the group discussed the importance of having the “A” for “Allies.” In summary, some members agreed that the “A” was confusing, but most all thought that it also expressed a “unique” aspect of the Center and the committee. Many spoke about how the allies have played a major role in the LGBT efforts on our campus, and thus needed recognition. The committee voted and the majority of the members voted to keep the “A” because it is unique, and also to help distinguish it from the name of the Center. Jes asked Rob Kinsey for help in branding the Committee in a way that would help reduce confusion and to clarify what the “A” represents, e.g., “LGBT+Allies” for our website and campus materials.
Committee and Mission Statement Consideration – Dr. Jes Sellers
A subcommittee was formed to re-work the committee’s mission statement to fit around the new Center and program director. Mayo Bulloch, Rob Kinsey, and Jes will work with Deputy Provost Lynn Singer to rewrite the committee’s mission statement to include the new Center, alumni, and allies.

Jes handed around 2 printouts—one was an article from the *Chronicle of Higher Education* titled “Approval of Gay Marriage is Greater Among College Freshman than Americans at Large,” and one was the LGBT-Friendly Campus Climate Index (www.campusclimateindex.org) for CWRU.

2. Media & Marketing – Rob Kinsey
Rob has been making lots of updates to the website. The LGBTA website is now the site for the LGBT Center, and the LGBTA Committee is part of the website. He has been working on naming separate pages for students, prospective students, faculty, and staff. The Safe Zone page is being updated, and the videos from Alumni Weekend are now online.

Committee members who have not yet sent in their biographies for the site, please do it as soon as possible. Everyone is a member of the committee voluntarily and it’s important for people to know why we are part of it.

The LGBT brochure has been redone and Jes handed around a copy for everyone to see. They will be ready for the film festival next week. Melissa Morgan took the brochures to a conference in Chicago and they were well-received. Ryan Keytack from Undergraduate Admissions told the Committee that he and others have taken them to College Fairs and that they are well received by prospective students.

3. Campus Education and Outreach

SafeZone – Liz Roccoforte
The first student session of SafeZone training was scheduled for Saturday, March 20th; however, the subcommittee cancelled it because the presentation wasn’t going to be ready in time. The first session will be on Tuesday, March 23rd, and is a smaller group; the Tuesday, March 30th session has a larger group. There will be a dress rehearsal session from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, March 19th in Adelbert Hall, room M2; please come to give feedback. MSASS is scheduling 2 of their own sessions, and the Health Center and University Counseling want their own sessions as well. There will be more training sessions scheduled for the summer as the end of the semester approaches.

Unity Week – Liz Roccoforte
This is the second year for Unity Week, which will be the week of March 22nd. There are many programs on diversity and multicultural events, with the Unity Banquet on that Friday. Juniper Residential Hall will be sponsoring Walk in My Shoes with an LGBT theme, and they will be doing scenes from the movie *The Laramie Project*. Dr. Faye Gary will also be presenting on women’s health at the Alumni House on that Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Ryan Keytack, Associate Director for Undergraduate Admissions, announced that they will be doing a lot of multicultural student recruitment during Unity Week.
**Ally Narratives** – Jes Sellers

Lynn Singer, President Barbara Snyder, Vice President for the Office of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equal Opportunity Marilyn Mobley, and Vice President for Student Affairs Glenn Nicholls will be speaking at the event **Ally Narratives: Stories of Inclusion and Acceptance**. The flyer for the event was distributed.

**Top Ten Things Lesbians Should Discuss with Their Healthcare Providers** – Dorothy Miller, Director, Women’s Center

Top Ten Things Lesbians Should Discuss with Their Healthcare Providers is being presented by the Women’s Center, Spectrum, and the Office of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equal Opportunity on Thursday, March 25th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Spartan Room in Thwing Center. The presenter is Dr. Melanie Leu, an alumna of Case’s medical school. She is a physician in the Cleveland MetroHealth LGBT Pride Clinic and will be speaking about their services and lesbian health issues. The flyer for the event was distributed.

**Other Announcements**

The CAUSE (College And University Students 4 Equality) Conference 2010 will be held at the University of Cincinnati in Cincinnati, Ohio on Saturday, April 10th and Sunday, April 11th.

4. **Community Engagement**

**Cleveland Film Festival** – Jes Sellers

The Cleveland Film Festival starts on March 18th and lasts for 10 days in downtown Cleveland, Ohio. The LGBT Center will be presenting the LGBT-related films, aka 10% Series. Jes distributed a number of movie vouchers for free tickets. Please talk to Jes if you’re going to be at the festival; we are going to have people advertise the Center at the festival.

**HRC Dinner** – Jane Daroff

Jane distributed save the date cards for the Cleveland Human Rights Campaign Dinner on May 1st at the Wolstein Center at Cleveland State University in Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Lynn Singer announced that the Deputy Provost’s office will be contributing $1000 for tickets, which is enough for 10 students to attend. The university is sponsoring at the bronze level, which gives them a table for 6 people. There is no speaker announced yet for the dinner. Students can volunteer to help at the dinner and receive free admission.

5. **Program Coordinator Search**

Lynn and Jes thanked the search committee for their time and effort in finding a program coordinator for the new LGBT Center. They had several great candidates and have decided on someone who is very happy to accept. The paperwork is not final in Human Resources, so the announcement will be forthcoming. The new coordinator will be reporting to Lynn in the Provost’s Office.
6. **Announcements** – Lynn Singer
   - In February, the university and the Western Reserve Historical Society signed a memorandum of understanding. One of the first projects will be to take a look at WRHS’s great LGBT archive. Lynn hopes to integrate some of this history into the LGBT Center. They have all the original PFLAG founding items and audio of people’s life stories, and are looking into digitizing an old radio show called *Gay Waves*. Tim Robson, Interim Director of University Libraries, will be speaking to Jes about this project. John Grabowski, history professor and Director of Research at the WRHS, is involved.
   
   - LGBT Center: The Hart Crane statue will not be moved to the Center. Also, the writer of the news story announcing the Center in the Case Daily received a negative letter from a reader regarding the Center “taking away open student space.” We need to advertise that the LGBT Center is an open space for any university member who wants to use it, and there will be reservable meeting space in it as well. Rob commented that a similar discussion was taking place on the Case online forums, but so far the discussion has remained calm.
   
   - Lynn received a call regarding the opening of Kent State University’s LGBT center. Their center was opened on March 11 and is called the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Student Center—the caller was wondering about the “queer” in the title.

7. **Walk-Through of LGBT Center**
   Jes took the committee through the LGBT Center space, which is under renovations and closed to the public. Many of the building’s original architectural details are being restored and the space is coming along nicely.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m. after the walk-through of the center.

Minutes by Hollie McGivern.

Future agenda items:
- Domestic partner-hire form
- LGBT Engineering & Science Scholarship
- LGBT History course
- Introduction of new Program Coordinator