LGBTQ Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 26, 2011
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Cleveland Room, Thwing Center

AGENDA


2. LGBT Center update  Liz Roccoforte
   - Transgender Task Force
   - Identifying as LGBT on admission application

3. Alumni Weekend review  Co-chairs

4. LGBT curriculum subcommittee  Co-chairs

5. New business for 2011-2012 academic year  All
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The meeting was called to order by co-chair Dr. Jes Sellers at 3:30 p.m.

1. New initiatives to address
   - Continuing diversity lecture series on LGBTQ issues; perhaps partner with the Baker-Nord Center
   - Stronger LGBT alumni group; in their strategic plan, the LGBT Consortium put out a document on LGBT alumni group building

2. Unfinished business from 2010-2011

   - Upgrossing for employees: Even though CWRU offers benefits for domestic partners of employees, the IRS considers this taxable income and the employee has to pay taxes on it. Some places of employment “upgross”—give a higher gross salary to the employee to make up for the difference. The committee agreed that this is perhaps not the right time to press this issue, since the CWRU budget is so tight, but it should be kept on the back burner.
   - Domestic partnership affidavit: The committee has been trying to make the affidavit form and process simpler for employees who have already registered as domestic partners in Cleveland or Cleveland Heights, or have marriage certificates from out of state. This is currently still with General Counsel.
   - Office for LGBT Center program director: nothing has happened.

3. LGBT Center update

   Liz Roccoforte, program director of the LGBT Center, distributed a handout detailing LGBT Center activities for fall 2011. The Substance Abuse and the LGBT Community workshop is next week. Liz is getting more involved with the Student Affairs Office and the Center has seen increased traffic.

   Transgender Task Force: There have been an increasing number of transgendered students matriculating at CWRU. Several freshmen come in who want to transition right before college. Liz would like to develop a task force to get procedures, policies, and best practices in place. There are several areas of concern, including locker rooms, gender neutral bathrooms, and showers, and several offices need to be involved, including the Registrar’s Office, Housing, Office of Undergraduate Studies, Health Services, Facilities, Access Services, and Athletics. Liz would like to have everything in place for the start of the next academic year.

4. Intellectual venues for LGBT students

   The LGBTA Committee would like to develop the curriculum and have more courses offered regarding LGBT issues. Currently there is a course on language and gender offered every few years, a gender and sexuality
studies class, and a law class. There should be a list compiled on course offerings in the LGBT genre. Eventually, a major or a minor should be offered, as that is one of the requirements on the Campus Climate Index.

5. Other business

-Safe Zone training: Liz has seen greater success with holding specific Safe Zone trainings for departments. She hopes to implement a “train the trainer” program so that more sessions can be held.

-Liz has a graduate volunteer/research intern from Kent State University who is doing research on homophobia in Greek life. The climate for LGBT students is worse in sororities than in fraternities.

-The committee would like to do a social event for staff. The faculty reception was great, and there was a well-attended faculty and staff reception two years ago. Another happy hour at Table 45 should be scheduled. It helps to have annual events.

-Liz would like to put together a group with representatives from on- and off-campus to help create a mission and values statement for the LGBT Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.
LGBT CENTER UPDATE-FALL 2011

LGBT Center Staff 2011-2012

- Task Supervision of MSASS Graduate Student (24 hours/week)
- 3 undergraduate work study students (10-20 hours/week)
- One graduate volunteer/research intern, working on pilot survey about homophobia in CWRU sororities (8-10 hours/week)

Programming

- **Coming Out Day Events (October):**
  - National Speaker, Kenyon Farrow
  - Ally Coming Out Party
  - Alumni Weekend Think Forum “The Queer Youth Movement” presentation
  - LGBT Alumni Reception

- **Gender/Transgender Week (November):**
  - Sponsorship of student trip to see “La Cage Au Faux”
  - Co-sponsorship of the Transgender Day of Remembrance vigil in Downtown Cleveland
  - Co-sponsor and judge of Drag Ball
  - Guest, JAC Stringer, Transgender activist and educator
    - 2 Transgender 101 sessions
    - 1 Art of Drag workshop
    - Meeting with Transgender Task Force

- **Conversation Groups (4 per week)**

- **Past Additional Workshops/Presentations (July-October)**
  - Sexual Conduct training for residence life
- LGBT Center welcome session for Freshmen
- Orientation Fairs (3 per year)
- PFLAG Student Welcome and reception
- Faculty reception and welcome

**Community Outreach and Involvement**

- Member of community organization Pride Alliance
- Transgender Day of Remembrance co-sponsor
- Potential partnership with PFLAG Cleveland to create a support group for LGBTQ people of color