

*Commission for LGBT People*

12/1/14

\_\_\_ in attendance

- I. November minutes approved
- II. Discussion of gender-neutral and family restrooms, *Rickey Hall*, Vice Chancellor of Diversity & *Dave Irvin*, Vice Chancellor for Facilities Services
  - a. Commission letter delivered to the Chancellor proposing gender-neutral and family restrooms (hereinafter “gender-neutral restrooms”) in all new construction and major renovations
  - b. From Dave Irvin:
    - i. Current master plan includes gender-neutral restrooms in all major renovations and construction (for example, renovations in Henson Hall and Humanities/HSS will include them)
      1. However, non-public spaces such as new student housing on West Campus (with suite-style restrooms between an apartment) may not
        - a. Facilities is looking for spaces to add gender-neutral / family restrooms in non-public spaces to ensure that all new construction contains the restrooms
    - ii. Goal of website with color-coded overlays to indicate what buildings have these facilities and where in each building the gender-neutral restrooms are
    - iii. Renovations of existing facilities:
      1. If Facilities renovates a portion of an older building (for instance, Perkins), they must bring the entire building up to code, per Fire Marshal guidelines
      2. This makes it difficult to do small, low-budget “convert a restroom”-type renovations without becoming a large, \$2.5 million project
      3. Goal of coordination between Facilities and the LGBT Commission to target “building neighborhoods,” and determine where gender-neutral restrooms are needed most and which buildings are most cost-effective to renovate
      4. Interest in reaching out to the University of California system as to their new policy to include gender-neutral restrooms at all campuses (see <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/30/us-usa-transgender-california-idUSKCN0HP2BY20140930> for more information)
- III. Update from Sexual Empowerment and Advancement at Tennessee (SEAT): Sex Week Events Funding Denial
  - a. Overview
    - i. SEAT applied for around \$14,000 (a \$10,000 decrease from last year)
    - ii. On the evening of Wednesday, November 26, the day before Thanksgiving, SEAT was notified that they were awarded \$6,175 and that 8 out of 35 events had been funded

- iii. All LGBTQ+-related events and events concerning non-Christian religions or non-Western cultures were not funded, even those that involved UT faculty
  - 1. Please see the attached appeal document and budget spreadsheet for more detailed information
- iv. The Appeals Board has 10 days to respond
- v. Process of applying is event-by-event, so individual events can be denied for any reason (here, it seems to be based on content)

#### IV. Committee Reports

- a. Membership and Awards
  - i. Please contact us if you are interested in being a Co-Chair next year
- b. Equity and Issues
  - i. No update, meeting next week
- c. Communications
  - i. Possible future panel event coordinating with Pellissippi State Community College

#### V. Updates

- a. VolOUT
  - i. World AIDS Day event with the Center for Health Education & Wellness
- b. OUTreach
  - i. New ambassadors
  - ii. Revamping programming with a more educational focus
    - 1. New programs: InQUEERies, queer people of discussion group, bi and pan discussion group, asexual group
  - iii. Don't forget to donate to the Five for Five campaign
- c. OUTstanding
  - i. Great turnout: 288 recorded swipes; attendance from Kentucky schools, MTSU, Pellissippi, Volunteer State, Tennessee Tech
  - ii. Goal of shifting the conference into the OUTreach Center (currently within the College of Social Work MSSW program)
- d. OUTgrads
  - i. Potluck event with Lambda Law and other graduate groups
  - ii. Future: advising with VolOUT, making an LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce network, working with the Tennessee Equality Project's Safe Schools Program
- e. Mentoring
  - i. New mentee added to the program
  - ii. Application is up on the website: <http://cflgbt.utk.edu/mentorship/>
- f. Lambda Law
  - i. Hosted a lunch update with Regina Lambert for the Sixth Circuit same-sex marriage reversal and petition for certiorari to the Supreme Court in the case
- g. Commission for Women
  - i. Detailed discussion of the Responsible Employees policy with the Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence Policy

- h. Commission for Blacks
  - i. Positive feedback from Retention of African-Americans event
- i. New business
  - i. Knoxville Men's Gay Chorus has a holiday concert on December 13, at the Bijou Theater, will be interpreted into sign language by a gay deaf man