

Commission for LGBT People

Meeting minutes

May 1, 2017 | Hodges 605

- I. Approval of March and April Minutes
 - a. Both approved unanimously.
- II. Introductions of commissioners and guests
 - a. Recognition of Pride Ambassadors and student assistants
 - i. Co-chairs Michael Porter and Tamara Griffin presented Pride Center ambassadors and student assistants with honorary plaques.
- III. Lunch provided for members and guests
- IV. Report from co-chair Michael Porter
 - a. Discussion from meetings with the Chancellor
 - i. Michael Porter feels optimistic about the future collaborations and efforts of the CFLGBT with our new administration.
 - ii. Pride Center ambassadors and students reported on their discussions with Chancellor Davenport. They feel she is supportive and committed to the needs of LGBTQ+ students. Chancellor Davenport has discussed hiring a new Pride Center Director after the next legislative session, and she hopes to make renovations to the Pride Center and/or move the Center into phase II of the Student Union. Chancellor Davenport also attended Lavender Graduation.
 - iii. Tamara Griffin asked if the Pride Center ambassadors and assistants have outlined their needs and goals for the next year and shared those with the Chancellor.
 1. Students responded that their goals have been outlined in the Pride Center working group's report. They also were explicit in their need to have a Pride Center Director with graduate student assistants.
 2. Tamara Griffin asked how the CFLGBT can add their support to those needs.
 - a. Students responded that they want a proactive and assertive voice from administration that condemns discriminatory acts towards LGBTQ+ people rather than responding after events occur. They want the CFLGBT to communicate current issues with the Chancellor consistently so that she is aware and can be proactive. They also want administration to continue visiting them and hearing their needs.

3. Michael Porter discussed there may be adjustments within the Commissions moving forward; the Chancellor has expressed desire for the Commissions to be more collaborative.
 4. Danielle Burton reported the Chancellor is looking for a centralized method of communication from all Commissions.
 5. Commissioners discussed the nature of the CFLGBT's role, and how they function with and a part from the other Commissions.
 - a. Mary Lucal discussed strategic planning that will occur this summer for the CFB, and suggested the CFLGBT to think about what they may need as well.
- b. Discussion of needs for the 2017-18 academic year
- i. Danielle Burton reported some LGBT groups on campus hope the CFLGBT can be a hub of information regarding available resources and current events.
 - ii. Pride Center student assistant discussed a need for clear communication and instruction for transgender students coming into the University to navigate housing, gender assignments, availability of resources, etc.
 1. Danielle Burton discussed the CFLGBT's transgender resource document. The document will be provided through LGBT groups and electronically on cflgbt.utk.edu
 - iii. Pride Center student assistant discussed more focused awareness on the needs of LGBTQ+ people of color, and to spread awareness amongst other administrative groups.
 - iv. Pride Center student ambassador requested that the CFLGBT help make this a safer campus for LGBTQ+ people, because many incoming students are questioning their potential safety.
 - v. Commissioners discussed the need to continue advocating for a Pride Center Director.
- V. Co-chairs extended thanks to all commissioners and guests for attending
- a. Reminder to complete applications for membership for the CFLGBT 2017-18 academic year. Applications are open on our website, cflgbt.utk.edu, until May 15th.
- VI. Adjourn