

Commission for LGBT People

Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2018

Attendance: Jennifer Jabson, Bonnie Benson-Palmgren, Sterling Field, Denise Gardner, Luke Garton, Diane Goble, Cody Harrison, Mary Virginia Ireland, Kevin Kidder, Stephanie Langley, Joe Miles, Mitsunori Misawa, Joanne Patterson, Michael Porter, Jordan Smith, Mary Lucal, Jennifer Richter, Danny Glassmann, Bonnie Johnson, Joel Kramer, Alexandria Clyburn, Brandon Harris

- I. Introductions
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Update from co-chair Jennifer Jabson
 - a. We have created a new listserv “Friends of the Commission” that is open to the public; visit our website at cflgbt.utk.edu to subscribe. We also have created a LGBTQ Faculty and Staff at UT Facebook page that all are welcome to join. Our January LGBTQ Faculty and Staff Social at the Fieldhouse was not well attended, and we would like to boost attendance at future Socials; discussion on how to boost attendance followed. Jennifer encouraged commissioners to send ideas for Social events to Jordan Smith (jsmith15@utk.edu).
 - i. Denise Gardner suggested hosting a spring social at a pub or outdoor location.
 - b. We have developed a survey from the results of the LGBTQ Faculty and Staff Open Forums held in the fall. Sub-committee co-chairs will review the survey, then it will be sent to commissioners. Jennifer encouraged commissioners to spread the survey widely throughout their units.
- IV. Updates from sub-committees
 - a. Communications and alumni, Jordan Smith. They are working with the Tennessee Equality Project (TEP) to host an advocacy training. Jordan asked commissioners what days and times would work best for a training; discussion ensued. Jordan will provide an update on day and time before the March meeting.
 - b. Equity and climate, Michael Porter. They have been assisting Joanna Patterson with the LGBTQ Health Equity in Appalachia Symposium, which will occur on April 6th. Advertisements and RSVP links have been distributed throughout our listserv, and Commissioners are encouraged to continue spreading the word. They are accepting proposals through the end of the month from interdisciplinary groups.
 - i. Joanne Patterson discussed the purpose of the symposium is to address health holistically. She is continuing to reach out to individuals and groups across campus to advertise the event. She is seeking commissioners who are involved with student groups and faculty who have focused research on the topic area. She has reached out to 14 colleges/universities as well with intent to reach our broader community. Joanne discussed they will be doing virtual poster presentations.

- ii. Jennifer discussed the main point is to assess if a center for LGBTQ health and training would be feasible for our community. She discussed the rough agenda and key speaker information, including the virtual poster presentation format. Detailed information can be found on the advertisement materials being circulated. Jennifer noted Chancellor Davenport will more than likely visit the Symposium.
 - iii. SafeZone applications are ready. Bonnie will send out information soon and it will launch in the Fall.
 - c. Trans and non-binary, Bonnie Benson-Palmgren. They have been continuing to work on the gender inclusive restroom signage. Commissioners were encouraged to sign up to visit designated restrooms across campus; Nancy will circulate the sign-up sheet through the listserv. An online form will be forthcoming with instructions to document current signage.
 - i. Commissioners discussed restrooms in Neyland stadium. We will reach out to contacts in athletics to inquire about getting access to visit those restrooms.
 - ii. Denise Gardner noted Thompson Boling is renovated, so we have an opportunity to advocate for gender inclusive restrooms and signage before construction is complete.
 - d. Membership and awards, Luke Garton. They are seeking nominations for our Chancellor's awards until Feb. 15th; nominations are submitted on our website at cflgbt.utk.edu. Luke encouraged commissioners to nominate deserving individuals. They also are still seeking co-chairs for the commission next year; anyone interested in the position is encouraged to speak with Luke. Cody Harrison discussed the LGBTQ database that continues to be a work in progress. He has created an excel sheet with proposed information to collect, and will be sending the draft to the committee. After committee approval, he will distribute to the Commission for approval and circulation throughout our UT community. The goal is to have the database up and running by the end of the semester.

V. Other updates

- a. Pride Center, Bonnie Johnson. Lavender Graduation has been set for April 25th from 6-8 pm in the Panhellenic Building tentatively. Bonnie will search for new location that is more accessible and inclusive for restrooms. Chancellor Davenport will attend. Information about student sign-ups will be forthcoming. Also, the Pride Center is turning 8! They will be hosting a birthday party on Feb. 22nd from 5-7pm in the I-house Greatroom.
- b. Commission for Women, Jenny Richter. Dr. Elizabeth Johnson visited at the last meeting to discuss invisible labor and service burdens.
- c. Commission for Blacks, Mary Lucal. The CFB discussed recent paintings on the Rock at their last meeting, and continued discussions on how to best respond/communicate in a timely manner.
 - i. Commissioners discussed the upcoming vigil that will be held this Friday, Feb. 9th around the rock at 5:30pm.
 - ii. Commissioners discussed needed presence at the white nationalist Feb. 17th event to be held at the McClung museum.

- d. OUTgrads, Sterling Field. Their last social was well attended, and they will be attending the vigil around the Rock on Friday together.
- e. VolOUT, Joel Kramer. They hosted a December Drag show, and it was very well attended. They will host a Drag show during sex week and are still planning a spring show. Details will be forthcoming.
- f. Knoxville PFLAG, Joel Kramer. The organization launched this past Fall. They are hosting a screening of *Gender Revolution* on Feb. 24th at the Metropolitan Community Church of Knoxville at 5:30 pm.
- g. Danny Glassmann discussed the Chancellor's Citation Awards and the Torchbearer Awards. He encouraged commissioners to nominate LGBTQ students. Last week, they launched the VolMeansALL campaign to endow the Pride Center, and over 10% of funding goal (around \$400,000) was raised; Chancellor Davenport and Bonnie Johnson spoke at the event, and many students spoke and celebrated together. If you would like to donate to the endowment of the Pride Center, visit volmeansall.org
- i. Bonnie Johnson discussed the Art & Architecture project has picked the Pride Center for a theoretical redesign.
- h. Sterling Field noted the next TEP meeting will be held at Sugar Mamas from 6-7pm on Thursday, Feb. 8th.

VI. Adjourn