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Committee of Heterosexism and Homophobia Appeals to become Affirmative Action Subcommittee

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May 27, 1993

Dear President Carothers,

I am writing to inform you of a situation that has come to the attention of the Affirmative Action Committee and to apprise you of our method of resolution.

The Committee to Eliminate Homophobia and Heterosexism (CEH&H) has been actively involved throughout the 1992-93 academic year. Their progress gained national attention with the development of the "Safe Zone" Campaign which was featured in the Chronicle of Higher Education. A number of schools (Stanford, UMass, etc) have contacted the Committee to request similar adoptions. Possibly stemming from the increased exposure, the committee received its first piece of hate mail - from a U.R.I. Professor.

It became very apparent that this committee was quite vulnerable since it had no structural ties to the University. The mission and goals of CEH&H are clearly within the parameters of other standing committees that have been developed by the Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Committee (ie. sexual, racial and ethnic harassment, and the sub committee on disabilities). I proposed that CEH&H become a standing Committee under the Affirmative Action Committee. This proposal has been unanimously accepted by the CEH&H Committee and by the Affirmative Action Committee. Dr. Blair Lord has also indicated his approval.

I regret that homophobia is such a highly charged issue that we, as a Committee, feel the need to isolate this piece of legislation and apprise you of the situation. However, such action appears warranted in this case.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or write. I can be reached at my home number 783-8647 or at my office in Tootell Building x2976.

Most Sincerely,

Dr. Greta L. Cohen, Chairperson
Affirmative Action Committee

cc. Diane Goodman, chairperson CEH&H
Affirmative Action Committee members

