

University of Rhode Island

DigitalCommons@URI

The Committee to Eliminate Heterosexism and
Homophobia

Gender and Sexuality Center

1995

H&H Committee April Meeting Details

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/cmte-eliminate>

Recommended Citation

"H&H Committee April Meeting Details" (1995). *The Committee to Eliminate Heterosexism and Homophobia*. Paper 53.

<https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/cmte-eliminate/53>

This Agenda is brought to you for free and open access by the Gender and Sexuality Center at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Committee to Eliminate Heterosexism and Homophobia by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons-group@uri.edu.

Bring a couple of copies of Clear article

sent
after
no

REMINDER! REMINDER! REMINDER!

The next meeting of the
Committee to Eliminate Homophobia and Heterosexism
will be held:
Friday April 21
12:00 Noon
Room 204, Memorial Union

Discussion of Bues letter to NT, his letter to Senator McManis,
Bill letter award publication

Agenda*

1. Can someone volunteer to start taking minutes of H&H meetings? Gary will take
 2. Review of whether all loose ends have been tied up after the '95 Symposium. E.g. Thank yous, etc.
Mary-Je are making copies of tapes Jen + Mary are here, will discuss next week
 3. Report on response to Narragansett Times Viewpoint piece
Bues printed letter, Bill's, award publication
 4. Setting our priorities for the rest of the semester and for next year
 5. Other business?
- Next year Symposium:
Possible keynote - Barbara Smith, African-American lesbian feminist
Perhaps we should contact her now -
Mary Ellen Reilly might
be good contact also
director of NS at RIC
Contact her + get
initial facts -
expenses, etc

Next Meet May 4

*NOTE: SAVE TREES! BRING THIS AGENDA TO THE MEETING SO NO ADDITIONAL COPIES WILL NEED TO BE MADE!

1/95

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMMITTEE

on

- 1 Find and use materials we put together courses dealing with sexuality issues on campus → redo original, Bill hasn't ~~had~~ found original, does anyone have a copy?
- 2 Find and use description of an open campus.
- 3 Should we participate in orientation?
- 4 Should we write a statement of purpose? Should it be a priority? Pamphlet would be a place to start? Bill will start working on it
- 5 When should we begin to plan next year's conference? - Should put together a subcommittee now to start work Also: Team - put together a "how-to" for new planning subcommittee? Bill has list for ~~people~~ people who said they were interested for next year? Do we want to open up to participants from elsewhere?
- 6 Can organizers of this year's conference put together a concise statement of issues to jumpstart the planning of next year's conference? Can we start to get funding lined up now? Should we begin to pick a focus? Philosophical → trend toward more scholarly? More performance?
- 7 should we take minutes of H&H meetings? Keep informal, broad range. Can probably do a happy mixture of local & statewide?
- 8 Respond to viewpoint in Narragansett Times
- 9 Is it time to form a coalition and plan joint projects or find a common meeting place? Well be doing this anyway. Still, people see as a priority; Couple of us to go to various orgs, inform + tell them what we do? What is reaction to student request for gay student? There, but not very public. So how do we publicize? Suggest a course syllabus put into a little booklet? Insert
- 10 How should we deal with harrasment issues? block registration books → at least try?

done

Gay/Body →

- 11 Should we try to renew the Outlicks film series? - All interest here, Jean → have you been working with GLBA and his? GLBA has some money, perhaps?
- 12 Should we reissue and redo the Safe Zone sticker campaign? → Still stickers available - affirmative action, materials are in affirmative action. Talk to Paula, what is effective way to use brochures? Marg has ideas about this orientation etc

Attendees

Milda M. Hill
 WALLY SILLANPOA
 Rie Toy
 Carla Pickering
 Amy Black
 Bill Bartels

Al Lott
 Gary Burkholder

Any - student organization gets involved?

URI 101 - AL is teaching a section. Apparently, it's a nuts + bolts course. Should include more

Wally has info on a course that from URI → Required by everyone → racism, sexism, etc → perhaps we can use as model for URI?

COMMITTEE TO ELIMINATE HOMOPHOBIA AND HETEROSEXISM

Minutes for Friday, April 21, 1995

1. Attendance: Bill Bartels, Mathilda Hilts, Wally Sillanpoa, Brie, Carla Pickering, Amy Black, Al Lott, Gary Burkholder.
2. Gary volunteered to take minutes of the meetings
3. '95 Symposium review: Mary and Jean are currently making copies of the tapes for distribution. Since Jean and Mary were unable to attend, the rest of this issue will be discussed next week. As for next year's symposium: Barbara Smith, African-American lesbian feminist, was suggested as a possible keynote speaker. It was decided that someone should act now to gather information (cost, etc). The director of Women's Studies at URI and at RIC were suggested as possible contacts for particular information about reaching Barbara.
4. Brie's letter was printed today in the Narragansett times, and he distributed copies of his letter for those who don't get this paper. He also read a letter he wrote to Senator McNann from South Kingston, who appears to be opposed to passage of the amendment to the civil rights bill. Bill mentioned that he also has written a letter to the Narragansett times, but it has not yet been published. He has contacted the paper, and they assured him that it would be printed.
5. Priorities for next semester/year:
 - a. Find and use materials we put together on courses dealing with sexuality issues on campus. Bill cannot find the original in his files - does anyone have a copy of this listing that was distributed to committee members? It is the one that lists instructors, courses that deal with issues of sexual orientation, and willingness to volunteer for particular types of presentations.
 - b. Find and use description of open campus. Not discussed.
 - c. Should we participate in orientations? Not discussed.
 - d. Should we write a statement of purpose? Question is whether this should be a priority? Current pamphlet would be a place to start. There was a consensus that such a statement would be useful. Bill volunteered to begin working on it
 - e. When should we begin to plan next year's conference? It was suggested that a subcommittee should be formed now to begin planning. Jean and Mary are going to put together a symposium "how-to" document to guide planning. Names collected from the conference will be used to help form the subcommittee (Bill has this list). There was some discussion about the philosophy for the next conference - should we keep it to URI people or expand to invite presentations from around the state? It was suggested that we could find a happy mix between the two. Want to emphasize more "performance work", such as poetry reading, etc. Should keep the symposium informal with a broad range. Forming the subcommittee will be specifically addressed at the next meeting.
 - f. Should we take minutes of the meetings? Gary will take minutes, type them and have them available for the meeting following the one for which the minutes were written
 - g. Respond to viewpoint in the Narragansett Times. Bill and Brie have taken care of this.

h. Is it time to form a coalition and plan joint projects or find a common meeting place? It was suggested that the projects we will be doing will involve coalition building. A suggestion was also raised about a couple of people from the H&H committee visiting other organizations to let them know what we do and look for teamwork opportunities. The issue of creating a gay studies course was raised. Because of funding, this course probably won't happen soon. However, several departments offer courses that involve lesbian/gay themes. We should start now to get a list of all such courses, in order to make this list available to students. Distribution means suggested were the Cigar, the registration books, and a separate pamphlet offering course descriptions to be made available with registration materials.

i. How should we deal with harassment issues? Gary volunteered to begin working on this, by looking at models at other institutions and internal fact-finding. Andrew had also expressed an interest in this at an earlier meeting.

j. Should we try to renew the OUTFLICKS film series? Al stated he would definitely like to see this happen again, and everyone agreed. His idea was to have two film nights per semester. There was indication that Jean has been in contact with GLBA which might be interested in taking this on.

k. Should we reissue and redo the Safe Zone sticker campaign? Stickers and pamphlets are available at Affirmative Action. Question raised about the most effective way to use the brochures. Someone noted that Mary has some ideas on this issue, including making them available at orientation.

Talk of orientation spurred conversation about the new URI 101 course, which appears to be no more than a "nuts and bolts" course about URI. Wally volunteered to gather information about a racism, sexism and homophobia course being taught in a New Jersey school, a course required for all freshman. Perhaps we can use this information to model URI 101 after this course? Amy expressed an interest in getting student organizations involved in this type of course.

6. The next meeting is on Friday, May 4. At that time, plans for a committee social will be discussed.

Benjamin de Brie Taylor, 26 Wild Goose Road, Wakefield, Rhode Island 02879

The Editor, The Narragansett Times
P.O.Box 232
Wakefield, RI, 02880-0232

April 17, 1995

To the Editor,

The April 5th editorial in the Narragansett Times entitled *Gay Rights Need Protection* was enlightened and timely as was Karen Gavin's reporting, in the same issue, on a student panel at the lesbian, gay and bisexual studies Symposium of the University of Rhode Island.

As you reported, the Sexual Orientation Civil Rights bill has been passed in the state House of Representatives and is now before the Senate. Of course, passage by itself will not immediately undo a pervasive prejudice but it is important for the State to take a stand against this destructive and unjust form of discrimination.

Although the University has a policy of non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, strongly supported by its president, the need for broader legislation against this kind of discrimination was underscored by student speakers at the recent Symposium.

Along with your reporter, faculty members, students and other visitors to the campus, I listened to the panel where students described destructive and vindictive acts of physical and social harrasement perpetrated by fellow students and others, a small minority one hopes, against individuals simply for being perceived to be lesbian or gay. In addition, the frequent incomprehension of parents and friends, caused by ignorance as well as fear, was described in extraordinarily candid and painful detail.

Actually, the various panels of the Symposium, sponsored by the University's Committee to Eliminate Heterosexism and Homophobia, many including both faculty and student viewpoints, went well beyond problems of discrimination and stereotyping.

There were enlightening discussions of psychology and literature. The importance of self-awareness and self-expression were illustrated with many examples. There were inspiring stories of personal fortitude and human sympathy. There were also frequent, unexpected occasions for humor and laughter.

Benjamin de Brie Taylor, 26 Wild Goose Road, Wakefield, Rhode Island 02879

The Symposium was an occasion for appreciating the meaning and value of diversity. Beyond all academic considerations of sexuality, it made one aware of the rich human resources to be found in the University and in this southern Rhode Island community. But those who attended will not wonder that a non-discrimination law is needed.

As your editorial stated, the Ocean State, because of its history, should be a haven of tolerance where discrimination against people, because of their sexual orientation, is not practised. However, principle may be easier to practise when it is also law.

Benjamin de Brie Taylor
789-2533