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1996

## H&H Committee Early May Meeting Details

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Minutes for the meeting of the  
Committee to Eliminate Homophobia and Heterosexism  
May 2, 1996

1. Meeting called to order at 10:00am.
2. Attendees were: Bill Bartels, Gary Burkholder, Nancy Pirrone, Andrew Winters, Holly Nichols, Wally Sillanpoa, Rosie Pegueros, Dana Shugar, Greta Cohen, Jean Walton, Mary Capello, Albert Anderson, and Brie Taylor.
3. Announcements. Congratulations to Jean Walton, she is a new aunt.  
*- Rosie Brought in e-mail on other H&H programs on other campuses.*
4. Reflections on symposium. Members of the committee were invited to share reflections and critiques of the symposium. The reflections made were:
  - It made a difference to have people from outside the university as presenters.
  - There were favorable comments made from visiting presenters. Gary has these comments in the files.
  - Professional risks were taken by some in presenting at the symposium. Andrew related the story about Layli, from University of Georgia, that her position is in jeopardy.
  - Press coverage was good, even though none of the TV stations responded
  - The conference was well organized and appeared to go off without a hitch.
  - Wally mentioned that he was disappointed with the crowd, and the lack of faculty involvement in the symposium.
  - Wally also discussed in depth the recommendation from Michael Hames--Garcia concerning holding some type of public demonstration as part of the symposium, perhaps on the quad.
  - We need to give much advance notice to LGTV to have them cover the conference
  - The lack of attendance by students was noted. There was discussion about using extra credit strategies to get students to attend.
  - There were mixed reviews concerning the presentation made by Barbara Smith. Some said it was identical, and less inspired, than a presentation made at Rhode Island College last year. It didn't move fast enough. Some thought the presentation was very good. There was a suggestion to seek a less star--oriented presenter who might offer a more critical presentation. One person suggested that Barbara Smith's humor and personability helped bridge the gap between gay/lesbian and race issues
  - There was more talk about why students weren't going. There might be a fear of being seen at a conference for glbt concerns. One person suggested that the fear might disappear if people realize that all presenters and attenders are not glbt people. Possibly bring in a keynote speaker who is not gay but speaks on a topic of interest to the symposium.
5. There was then discussions on specific recommendations. Gary read the recommendations and

followed comment and amplification. All additions to the recommendations are included in the final recommendations document. We got through about half of the recommendations and then, given the time remaining and that the recommendations were speaking to the organization of the symposium planning committee, we shifted discussion to the future of the symposium and the structure of the committee.

6. The question was asked: Why do we want a symposium?

-- Holly: I had a place to fit in, a space to go for 3 days.

-- Greta: This committee is the only one pursuing these issues, so we need to be doing this sort of thing.

-- Jean: Don't offload the symposium such that it loses the personality of the full committee.

-- Dana: Conferences like these are typically involving a year of planning with a committee as large as the full H&H committee. It will take everyone from the committee to commit. Try to find ways to make conference planning time "professional time" in terms of release time, etc, so that it doesn't all feel like volunteer time.

-- Holly: Having an autonomous planning committee would allow for the work to get done faster.

-- Wally: There should be no fear of a loss of control, because there is a track record now, and we have guidelines, so we should be able to trust an autonomous committee to act in the best interest of the full committee.

-- Andrew: There are people in the community interested in collaborating and supporting the symposium in the future.

-- Brie: It is important that speakers come from our own campus. The art presentation from the community was disappointing. It caused me to consider working on planning an art panel for next year.

Other issues that came up in the discussion:

-- That the H&H committee consider advocating for an office of glbt concerns. This would, in the long term, solve the problem of time and planning of the future symposia. It was recommended that we might be able to get space in the new multicultural center. Andrew thought that this might be possible, but he noted that the MC currently does not express a priority for glbt concerns. There was mentioned the possibility that we might be able to form liaisons with departments who would be willing to use their work study students as workers for the symposium. Andrew discussed his experience with this at another school for which he worked. Bill recommended that Andrew use his experience to develop a proposal for review by the H&H committee.

-- That students in the future should continue to find ways to get credit for involvement.

-- It was approved that the Symposium Planning Committee be an autonomous committee. It will be able to function independently of the full committee but will be a subcommittee of it. There was discussion of who would cochair the committee for next year. Al said he would like to get involved and work on the intersection of spirituality and homosexuality. Holly said she would co-chair the committee if the focus was anything but that. Gary suggested that the cochairs were responsible for broad planning issues that went beyond specific focuses. Others felt that the topic provides the passion. Andrew said he would also volunteer to cochair the committee.

-- We began to discuss possible focuses, but it was recommended that that particular issue would be best discussed at the first meeting of the Planning Committee. Bill suggested that we set a last meeting of the full committee to determine the planning committee chairs and also to discuss a possible focus (foci) for next year's symposium.

7. Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm. The next meeting is on May 17, 1996, 12:00pm in room 202, Memorial Union.