

University Committee on LGBT Issues  
June 18, 2004

Present: J. Altman, D. Benson, M. Brown, R. Buehler, D. Fillmore, M. Moon, B. Munjas, S. Watstein (recorder),  
Absent: J. Bradford, W. Fahey, J. Levi, J. Williams  
Excused Absences: C. Burnside

Agenda items included discussion of Dr. McDavis' departure, leadership, the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, September 14 reception, EEO training, Equity and Diversity, our Website, legislative issues.

### **Dr. McDavis' Departure**

Dr. McDavis July departure for Ohio was noted. SBW will purchase and route a farewell card through the group so we can say goodbye. His consistent and consistently high level of support for our organization and our concerns was acknowledged. He will be missed!

### **Committee Leadership**

Several models for leadership for 04/05 have been considered, with the Co-Chair and Executive Committee models being the two most compelling. The latter has been identified as a "go" for the coming academic year. The E.C. will consist of D. Benson, C. Burnside, M. Miller and S. Watstein. We did not identify alternates. J. Altman volunteered to serve as the group's representative of Equity and Diversity. S. Watstein will email N. Langston accordingly.

### **August 20 Meeting**

There is no July meeting. Our next meeting will be August 20. S. Watstein will reserve the Cabell Library 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room.

### **September Reception**

Our 5<sup>th</sup> annual welcome reception will be held on Tuesday, September 14, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Space is confirmed for the University Student Commons, Commonwealth A. S.

Publicity: Watstein will modify last year's flier and send to the group; R. Buerlein will promote the reception at the August 23 new student orientation and M. Moon will do the same at an event on August 18. The flier will be used for mass emailings (see below) and for the Commonwealth Times (also see below).

Mass emailings: R. Buerlein will pursue for SSW; C/ Burnside will pursue for SoTA; M. Miller will pursue for the School of Business; D. Fillmore will pursue in the College; M. Moon will work on SOM and the SON; S. Watstein will pursue for the Libraries. S. Watstein will also email Queer Action and SMSA, and will prepare a block ad for the Commonwealth Times.

Food: J. Altman will bring a sign-up list to our August meeting to facilitate planning.

Invitations: Initiations will be sent to senior administration; we did not specify who would do this. S. Watstein will speak with C. Burnside about this.

Give-aways: M. Brown will coordinate, as in previous years. The generosity of For the Love of Chocolate personnel was acknowledged.

Music: S. Watstein will speak to A. Fisher-Duke re: acoustic guitar accompaniment. Fisher-Duke is a student worker in the VCU Libraries with contacts in Music.

Budget: Potential supporters were identified - - Dean Baskin, P. Self, J. Ulmschneider, and, within the Provost's office, T. Atkinson, D. Brodd, M. McCreary. S. Watstein will speak with C. Burnside about approaching these persons for contributions. Budget restrictions in recent years have impacted our ability to "ask," as well our willingness to pursue outside support for this important event.

### **EEO/AA Training**

S. Watstein updated the group as to the June 4 meeting she and C. Burnside had with J. Williams to review the sensitivity training outline. Changes in session approach, format and content were highlighted, with contrasts with the Fields/Fillmore/Watstein Human Resources training (Fall 2003) noted. Watstein noted that there appears to be a green light to further develop content. The group - - C. Burnside, S. Watstein, and J. Williams will meet again in July. Fall training is still a "go."

### **Equity and Diversity**

Minutes of the Equity and Diversity May 10 meeting were shared; neither C. Burnside nor S. Watstein attended this meeting. S. Watstein noted concerns raised by the minutes, notably as concerns our official sub-committee status, and shared details as to an email she sent to N. Langston on May 24. N. Langston's reply was also noted. Members of the group noted that V. Williams had raised similar issues at the group's May meeting.

### **LGBT Website**

S. Watstein will check the April minutes to see who was supposed to do what in the way of follow up with M. McCreary as concerns site hosting and access to relevant files etc. D. Benson reported that as of yet he has no access to files and cannot move our site out.

### **Legislative Concerns**

Updates re: HB 751 were provided and the political climate of the Commonwealth bemoaned. Faculty Senate President J. Lewis' support for these issues was noted.

R. Buerlien distributed "GLBT Facts: Same-Sex Marriage" (from NASW Virginia Chapter).

*Virginia is for Lovers - - with certain exceptions*, bumper stickers are in and available at MCC as well as other locales.

M. Moon referred folks to the Human Rights Campaign web site for talking points about the marriage equity issue.

### **Housekeeping Notes**

2004/05 meetings will be held the **second Friday** of each month at 12 noon in the James Branch Cabell Library 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room. Note: this is a departure from

previously agreed upon schedules; M. Moon noted concerns about the 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays, and the group agreed to shift.

S. Watstein agreed to resend the minutes from the April and May meeting. Several members are missing these documents.