

University Committee on LGBT Issues  
September 10, 2004

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

Agenda items included discussion of the upcoming Welcome Reception, goals for 2004/05, and updates on various issues.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Welcome Reception**

Details were reviewed and assignments firmed up - - invitations and fliers, budget, refreshments, speakers (Altman [Safe Zone], Gottfredson, McCreary, S. Messmer, Queer Action, SMSA, Trani), entertainment, give-aways, set up and clean up, etc. Flier distribution to date was noted - - Arts (C. Burnside), Business (M. Miller), College (D. Fillmore), Counseling and Safe Zone (J. Altman), Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy (M. Moon), Social Work (R. Buerlein), and VCU Libraries (S. Watstein). Queer Action and SMSA have also been informed (C. Burnside); leaders of both groups plan to attend and are prepared to speak briefly. M. Moon noted that promotion to staff might be lacking. Appreciation was expressed to Dean Langston for providing monies (~\$600.00), which will be used to pay for catering by Aramark. J. Altman provided a run down of the menu, and noted cost at ~\$530.00 to accommodate an estimated guest count of 60 persons. S. Watstein has not been successful working out arrangements for acoustic guitar accompaniment. J. Altman also offered to bring music. S. Watstein offered to bring a CD player from VCU Libraries. Give-aways are under control thanks to M. Brown (For the Love of Chocolate, Ruth Joffey, Starbucks, etc.). S. Watstein will contact Tom French about flower arrangements. M. Moon offered to bring nametags and markers as well as give away/raffle tickets.

### **Goals**

Goals for 2004/05 were identified. The group concurred that a laundry list of concrete actions for the coming year would provide a reason for individuals to "show up." S. Watstein offered to prepare a flier for the reception listing goals. M. Moon suggested the overall theme of working for equality.

### **Diversity and Equity**

S. Watstein noted that Dean Langston has not yet confirmed whether or not she will be chairing this group this year. J. Altman will represent our Committee.

### **Update: EEO/AA Training**

S. Watstein provided an update as to a recent meeting with C. Burnside and V. Williams about the training. Three workshops per semester are planned, with C. Burnside and S. Watstein serving as presenters. A name for the training modules has not been chosen; the workshop memo/mailer has not been finalized. Highlights of the training outline were reviewed, as were concerns as to content and presentation. She will email the working outline to members for feedback. Of especial concern was how best to represent LGBT issues to the University community, and whether we should "table" this initiative until the spring or the next academic year. The value of visibility (and momentum) was acknowledged, and the group expressed support for going forward with one of the three

workshops this fall. C. Burnside and S. Watstein will proceed and keep the group abreast of developments.

**Update: Domestic Partner Benefits**

The status of exploration and implementation is not known. M. Moon noted that implementation remains a priority for Faculty Senate President J. Lewis this year.

**Update: Recreation Sports**

C. Burnside has been in discussion with S. Bolling and J. Bradford. A meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2004.

**Update: Web Site**

D. Benson has been in touch with M. McCreary, Assistant Vice Provost for Diversity and Quality Enhancement Plan Coordinator, about integration of our site with his office's site. D. Benson raised the issue of comfort ability with what we're presenting; concerns about confidentiality were noted, and it was agreed that review of minutes and other documents was desirable. The issue of how other LGBT groups handle posting minutes etc. was raised.