

Summary of CLGBTE “Student Concerns” Meeting
Thursday, February 23, 2006

STUDENT ORGANIZATION PRESENTATIONS

- **Allies**
 - Leadership structure has been reorganized
 - Group now planning events for Pride Week, including the Unity Prom and “We Are Not Afraid” ad
- **Undertones**
 - A new group that focuses on nonheterosexual/allies of color
 - Working with other groups on several projects, including a Mr./Ms. Penn State show
- **Coalition of LGBTA Graduate Students**
 - Coordinating several lectures and research presentations on issues such as career development and research development
 - Planning the One in Ten Film Festival for the last two weekends of March
 - Planning the Shower of Stoles project that will feature an exhibit of religious themes as well as stoles from or in honor of ministers who cannot come out
- **Pride Alliance/Campus Representatives**
 - An intercampus group formed at the Penn State leadership conference last summer, the group is primarily web-based and focuses on networking
 - **Penn State New Kensington:** The “LGBT Network” organization currently has one member and has been able to host one speaker. Pride Alliance offered its support to the group
 - **Penn State York:** Working with a group in Harrisburg on a first annual gay pride parade in Harrisburg and is planning a gay pride pageant on campus
 - **Penn State Altoona:** Restructuring, with an emphasis on creating more stability; currently approximately twelve active members. Planning the second annual Altoona Pride Week and Day of Silence events

DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES:

Guests were present to represent the Office of Student Affairs, The Inter-College Committee, The Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Studies in the College of the Liberal Arts.

Nondiscrimination Policy

- CLGBTE distributed its position statement on the current litigation regarding the nondiscrimination policy
- Students noted that the motion to dismiss the litigation presented raises the question of what is the basis on which people are held accountable to Penn State’s nondiscrimination policies. They also noted that issues of race and gender in the lawsuit need to be addressed and that it is unclear what the university is doing to support the students who are still in Intercollegiate Athletics where unfavorable conditions may still exist
- University officials cannot publicly comment on the case, but have explained that the motion is filed under Pennsylvania law that does not offer the same level of protection around sexual orientation. The Affirmative Action Office upholds Penn State’s policy, thus the investigation

- Students called for an explanation of the motion to dismiss to be made in a public forum, including information about which administrators may have approved the motion. The University's lead attorney has offered to meet privately with student leaders, an offer which they have rejected
- The commission's executive committee is arranging a meeting with the lead attorney

LGBT Minor

- The "Report of the Inter-College Committee to Develop a Minor for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Studies" asserts that "it is not possible for the remaining members of the committee to move forward with the submission of a proposal for a minor in LGBT studies unless and until [several] issues are resolved at the university level." These issues include titling the minor specifically as LGBT studies; University-wide commitment of administrators and faculty, including hiring additional faculty and a chair; and funding for course development and development of the minor.

CLGBTE meetings are open meetings and students from all Penn State campuses are encouraged to attend (in person or through other means) to share their concerns and learn more about the commission's activities.

For complete minutes of this meeting, contact Victoria Sanchez, Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity's liaison to the commission <vsanchez@psu.edu>.