

KP Minutes 10-25-2006

Introductions

Special Guests

- Jen O'Connell, Director of Student Activities
- Betty Chavis, Director of Outreach & Multi-Ethnic Programs - African American Outreach Coordinator
- Chris Anderson, Executive Director of Educational Opportunity and Special Assistant to the President for Institutional Diversity
- Les Cook, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Glenn Mroz, University President
- Jill Arola, Learning Specialist/Administrative Coordinator of the MTU Writing Center
- OUTlook, NMU's GLBT group

Questions for Glenn Mroz

- Have our questions been followed up on?
 - Les
 - Gender-neutral bathrooms – Facilities is working on it as buildings are remodeled and new buildings are built. They're trying to figure out how to go about doing it and where it would be beneficial to do it.
 - None of the present ones have a shower in them, where are Transitional students supposed to bathe?
 - Travis – Presently looking into how other universities handle it, not requiring people to be married to live together in the Heights, etc.
 - Les – This is on the agenda for a meeting he's attending this week.
 - GLBT coordinator recommendation – Nobody in place at the moment. The Safe Place program has been institutionalized, in the Student Activities office.
 - No training on how to be a good ally, lots of people ask "how to do it". Someone offered to give training.
 - Sue Dilsworth left, leaving a void, Jill in the counseling center has stepped up/taken extra hours to provide the service this year.
 - Safety issue on campus – Recommendations for better lighting, etc. Facilities has taken charge of that project. Also the addition of more cameras, etc.
 - More educational programming in relation to diversity on a whole. Bringing Sean from Triangle Foundation to MTU.
 - Chris
 - Person from Climate Survey is coming back to facilitate a roundtable with the students to discuss the results of the survey
 - Extensive workshop with faculty about inclusivity in the classroom

- Smaller workshop with deans, etc.
 - NCBI – Offered to do at least one session a semester.
 - One recommendation was for more role models on campus.
 - A lot of discussion on partner benefits – not likely to be resolved anytime soon, but there’s a lot more discussion about it now than in the past.
- Revising university forms for gender-specific terms (*grandmother* to grandparent, *son* to child, etc.)
 - Each department would be in charge of changing their own documents.
 - Chris – They looked at the report and listed people that should have been contacted, and they probably haven’t all been contacted yet. It hasn’t been ignored.
 - Alex – CS Majors in the group willing to help out.
 - Les – Computing group on campus to do it, wouldn’t need to tap into the students for help.
 - Les – In the process of revamping the online application process to interface with Banner because it creates just as much work now as paper applications do.
- Social Justice track to Ethics minor
 - Craig Waddell has talked about it.
- Provide funding for GLBT community
 - Michael – Calling KP alumni for donations? Jared says that a list exists somewhere, but it might be kind of awkward to call someone to say “I hear you were gay back in 1990, wanna donate to our group?”
 - Pat – University Communications – what role do they play in contacting alumni? (Every Monday there’s an alumni newsletter.) Alumnus magazine.
 - Marg – Put something in that to appeal to KP/gay alumni?
 - Les – I-Modules program will let you set up affinity groups, can be asked to form an affinity group of people we know are alumni. Should be done after New Year’s.
 - David – KP reunions.
- Bryan - GLBT coordinator – What can we do to help?
 - Betty – The person should be a GLBT member.
 - Chris – Biggest problem is getting on a budget.
 - Gail – What if there was outside funding, would the University be willing to take that?
 - Les – Not only hiring them, but they also need to be given a budget to do things with.
 - Gail - Possible to write a grant to cover a part-time position and the budget necessary.
 - Betty – She’s a minority recruiter. Tech had never had one before and the funds were found to create her job. She says that a grant shouldn’t need to be written, that somehow the funds can be found for this as well.

- Bryan – Who is in charge of Univ. of Michigan players having come up? No one really heard anything about it until after they had already been here.
 - Chris – It was geared toward faculty and staff, mostly, which is why you may not have seen much for it.
 - Alex – Is there a protocol of places that get information for advertising? (There’s a checklist they use.) Not hearing about things is not a new complaint, should the protocol be examined to see if it can be improved at all? The list was generated in response to a discussion Chris had with Alex this summer, so it’s progress.
 - Chris – They try to get USG/ODK/etc. to invite students instead of getting invites from the faculty so that students would be more likely to attend.
 - Jason – Make a list of department chairs and deans that the student groups can get information from as information is sent out. (Something does exist, and they send stuff to certain student group lists.)
- Jen – Safe Place is in her jurisdiction now. People will be getting manuals soon. Starting a resource library in their office, if you have any suggestions for additions, pass them along to her at jaoconne@mtu.edu.
 - Gail – Do people from the Safe Place program meet at all face-to-face during the year, with or without KP? (Jen doesn’t know.)
 - Les – First goal is to bring the people together and give them some basic “things to know about being an ally” kind of training.
 - Pat – NCBI is helping a lot this semester.
- Chelsey – Separate meetings for students and faculty – Why not let the students be aware of the faculty meetings so that students can give their opinions in faculty presence, etc. A mixer between the students and faculty discussing “topics” might teach everyone a little better.
- Bryan – Only non-discrimination policy that includes gender identity that he found is in the Student Handbook.
 - Glenn – Surprised but not surprised he couldn’t find it. Can be made more visible.
 - Pat – Equal Opportunity policy includes non-discrimination but Sexual Harrassment policy does not.
 - Travis – Hard to put gender identity in a housing policy, presently assign people by sex-at-birth. Couldn’t put it in this next year without having a policy in place behind it, so it’s not in for next year but they’re looking into it for the future.
 - Related to Michigan’s cohabitation law?
- Jared – Hope we don’t always come across as harsh to the visiting administration, we appreciate the help and visit to the meeting.
 - Thank you from the group for bringing Sean to campus.
 - Les – Thank you for continuing to remind them, they’re busy people but they did promise to work on things, etc.

Announcements

- BGC registration online, www.alphabetsoup2007.org, remember to send them a check within a month of registering
 - If you don't have the address, ask Pat for it.
- Sean Kostofsky presentation
 - Guests impressions (Chris) – morning session had a few deans, several chairs, etc. (people that do not usually go out for things like that, people who have influence with other deans/chairs/etc.). Sean went over everything on his list very thoroughly and likely everyone learned a lot from it.
 - Jared – Most people that were there were seemingly engaged, it's nice when it's not mandatory because those who didn't want to be there weren't there begrudgingly.
 - Gail – Until you engage someone emotionally, they're not going to want to be there/get involved.
 - Lots of questions about vocabulary that people were uncomfortable with.
 - Betty – Concern that we bring in speakers and once they leave everything will go back to normal. Question – What would the cost be to keep someone on staff instead, to fill that coordinator-type role?
 - Jason – Is it possible to make a part-time counselor and part-time coordinator position?
 - Les – Would be wary to hire a GLBT person that is a counselor because it endorses the opinion that homosexuality is a disease.
 - Marc – Are faculty more inclined to attend a speaker or events? National Coming Out Day is a good example of an event that it'd be nice to see people come to.
 - Les – Mix of both. Staff complains “how much stuff do you expect us to go to outside of work hours?”
 - Marc – Seeing the administration interacting more with the students, teaching a class about diversity, etc. would be nice.
- Support Group, contact Nich or Shawna if you want to know information about it
- ‘Today in Pride News’
 - New Jersey!! – Court said they have 180 days to legalize unions, if they don't figure it out by then, then it'll become something like civil unions. New Jersey ruling would say you can transfer/challenge it in other states.
 - Boo to congressman with a “Dirty Harry ad”
 - Boycotting Wal*Mart for being GLBT-friendly, as well as Ford, etc.
 - Boo to Army specialist who was just released from prison
 - Yay to police in Massachusetts and Massachusetts football players
 - Yay to Grey's Anatomy star who just came out
 - Everyone wants to know what character he plays :P
 - Nov 20 is Transgender Day of Remembrance
 - Week before Thanksgiving Transgender Remembrance Week?
 - www.rememberingourdead.org and www.nctequality.org
 - Transgendered people have a 1 in 4 possibility of being a victim

Event Updates/Committees

- Activism/Education Committee
 - Working on a presentation in a couple weeks to coordinate with social
- ‘gay? fine by me’ Committee
 - Got funding for shirts, once we get them we can figure out something to do the day we’re handing them out so that we’re doing more than just “Here, have a shirt!”
 - Jason – Can we get more funding/get more shirts, since the 500 from the Spring went so quickly?
 - Plans are to get more in the Spring, there was just so much interest in getting some this Fall that we got funding to get a small batch now instead of none. We can focus more on better fundraising between now and Pride Week for a Spring bunch of shirts.
- Pride Week Committee
 - Need people on the committee
 - Contract brought to Joey – something needs to be changed, will bring it back to Joey later
 - Pat and Andrew found a possible speaker for Pride Week – something new! Has priced it and everything if we want to do it.
 - Gail highly recommends him
 - We should invite Joey to a meeting, Gail went to get OUTlook this week, would be willing to bring Joey anytime
 - Sean from Triangle Foundation suggested comedians we could check out
 - March 26-30th will be Pride Week.
 - Lila said we should start bugging the Backroom now for decorations/supplies/etc. Suggested Michael take charge of it. Marg will help.
 - Bring Brokeback Mountain to Film Board?
 - We would have to pay licensing, \$500-1000
 - Probably wouldn’t do it during their Friday/Saturday normal time, but during the week they’d be willing to do it
 - Elsa – Movie coming out called “Loving Annabelle” looks good, might/might not be out by Pride Week to get
 - Jason – Maybe one of the three theatres in Houghton/Hancock would be willing to donate it or something

E-Board

- President:
 - Anyone who wants to go to the discussion about the Climate Survey, e-mail her so she can RSVP.
- Vice President:
 - Last Friday – Kimberly-Clark diversity/multiculturalism meeting

- They're donating money. They want to expand the Writing Center, create a Diversity Resource Center downtown (like in the Library or something), etc.
- Treasurer:
 - Nothing.
- Secretary:
 - Borrowing Andrew's computer next week.
- Public Relations:
 - Started working on Pride Week posters.
- Social Whatever:
 - Apples to Apples next week.
 - Next week – Musical “the Fantasticks” next weekend instead of bowling
 - Halloween movies at Canterbury House after the meeting

Advisors

- Phopp
 - Everyone who did and didn't go to the Sean presentation should get together and talk to retain all the information he presented.
 - Leave it to E-board to schedule it.
 - Gail – Sean's handouts are all available online. Also, “The Advocate College Guide” is good to read for things about college admissions, etc.
 - Would like to see the people who went re-create Sean's presentation.
- Nancy
 - Not present
- Marg
 - Enjoyed Sean's visit. Wonderful ally to the group/liason between us and Triangle Foundation.
 - Thank you to him, PR is going to send flowers to him.

Old Business

- E-mail feedback to Sean (sean@tri.org)

New Business

- Drag Show at Northern – Everyone had a good time.
 - The dance was cancelled for lack of money.
 - Rocky Horror stage production, need tickets yesterday, if you want to go e-mail Miranda. It's a midnight showing on Saturday in Negaunee.

Activities ~ Halloween movies at the Canterbury House