

KP Meeting Minutes

7 March 2007

After Business Meeting: White Privilege

Special Guest: Betty Chavis



Introductions

- Introductions: Name, Spring Break Plans
- ROLL: Nich, Lincoln, Matt, Christian, Dave, Steve, Chelsea, Mike, Andy, Amanda, Jason, Miranda (NMU), Taylor (NMU), Dawn, Jeff, Bryan, Nancy, Diane, Phopp, Travis, Gail, Elsa, Kyla (NMU sp?), Doug, Betty, Dan, Andrew.

Announcements

- Support Group: Contact Counseling Services
- Today in Pride News: Demonstrating Evangelicals, Turkey has banned YouTube for gay incident, Don't Ask, Don't Tell...Utah refuses to repeal Sodomy Laws despite US Supreme Court rulings.

Committees

- **Activism/Education/Pride Week:** Need Amateur Drag Show judging criteria (Phopp). Keep it simple. Table Tents – not five—one for each day.
- **Gay? Fine By Me:** Shirts are ordered—half of the money was from housing—Dave needs to follow up with Travis, thank you letter to Beth Wagner. We need a day to distribute times. Fold shirts Monday during Pride after Bowling—after film on Sunday. Group photo time/location—check with Les Cook.

E-Board

- **President:** (not present)
- **VP:** Short Business meeting today—themed-meeting
- **Treasurer:** (not present)
- **Secretary:** Office space hearing, contact Theresa Coleman Kaiser—head of MUB
 - Meeting Structure—to discussed after Pride Week, with new E-Board
- **PR:** Thank you cards are sent out. *Tech Times* is advertising for us, website is updated, should we still do the *Daily Bull*?
- **Social Whatever:** (not present)
- **Advisors:**
 - **Phopp:** Posters are done. Postering after meeting.
 - **Nancy:** Will be doing workshop—hopefully during Pride Week.
 - **Marg:** (not present—surgery—doing fine)

Old Business

- **E-board nominations:**

- Dawn, nominated by Mike, seconded by Dave, accepted.
 - (see E-Board nominations sheet)
- (See officer and advisor reports)

New Business

- Spring Fling – Table? Theme is “Carnival.” 20 April 2007.
 - Condom Twister. (NMU)
 - Guess Straight Person all-day.
 - Kissing Booth
 - Do something that weather will not affect.
- Posters passed out
- FY matching program now has essay section—can discuss, match with other GLBTQ students; apartments are now gender neutral; still continuing transgender housing discussion. Major changes in the Res Halls!
- Sean – Equality Ride

Activities

- Everyone help with posters!

White Privilege - "Why is KP so White?"

Friday's Meeting – “Why do you belong in KP?”, “What do you want to do?": activism, change on campus, educate others and ourselves, accept diversity...wait...we're all white! What can we do differently?

- Work together
- Multi-Cultural / Diversity Center

Workshops at Alphabet Soup: Christian, Elsa and Nancy attended workshops relevant to tonight's theme:

- Elsa: Gay groups on campus are being isolated. Students thought this was due to apathy and a lack of effort to get things going. Ex: MLK Day.
- Christian: This workshop dealt with not just ethnic groups, but women (they seem to be a minority in LGBT groups, and here at Tech), etc. Most groups just don't bother to reach out.
- Nancy: Individual conflicts destroy organizations. This is a real problem—it happens here. People are oblivious to the 'white privilege.' Queer people of color. Tokenism. Anger. Transphobia. Alphabet Soup set an example: they had problems such as handicap accessibility, and they made their mistakes known and they apologized in front of everyone.

Betty:

- KP is just like any other MTU group—the issues are all the same.
- I have only known about six African Americans who were gay.
- Usually people just want to communicate to others that they can identify with—and they did not find it. “There are no special dances or bars where I can identify with others.”
- There is still a dividing line between white v black.
- “Daily Effects of White Privilege” article
- My dept is re-organizing There are problems getting faculty of color to come here. There is nothing to attract them.
- Progress is a good thing—and it is happening—look at housing!
- Diversity is supposedly high on the agenda of every dept, but look around you—I still feel alone.

Gail:

- You can replace the word “race” in the article with “sexual orientation,” “gender identity/expression” and it is still valid.

Betty:

- We need to push this—I've been here 17 years and I haven't seen much. However, there *is* still progress, but it's slow.
- If people don't say what they mean, and stand behind what they say—it's a laughingstock.
- If you get slapped, turn the other cheek.
- Tuition and fees here have gone up every year, and in the past the vast majority of extra monies was going to fund diversity programs.
- MI has lower birth rates—same story everywhere.
- Sometimes I feel as if I've been back-pedaling, but then I had my 30 minutes of fame (MLK Day, award, press)

- I was asked to transfer and I've been considering retiring, but I've helped a lot of students—not just black, but all colors and sexual preferences, and for some I'm their crutch.
- I've been talking to a Malaysian alum and I told him about tonight's meeting and he said, “There's no help..” He couldn't connect when he was here.
- There are so many not-out people and people that are out and are not part of the KP family or the GLBT community.

Travis:

- The situation in the Res Halls: from an administrative POV, things are progressive; however, ask a student and s/he may tell you otherwise. We just don't know everything that happens—that's why meetings such as this are great.
- Not any LGBT issues have been seen publicly this year—but things may have happened.
- In McNair, the slur “nigger” was written on a board this year—and I didn't find out until much later.
- Some dept members go to certain diversity events because they feel they are obliged to do so—or a fellow dept member actually does obligate a member to go to an event—to have the dept represented.
- Some people say things to the effect of, “I don't see skin color,” and they are taking away peoples' identities.
- The more dominant a group you are, the more information you have. The smaller group is left out of the loop.
- Being white and male, you have privileges.
- *Matrix* allusion—choice of either the red or the blue pill.

Nancy:

- We need to challenge others and ourselves. Fight like Betty Jones (Betty Chavis' predecessor).
- Be a role model—it gives other people thinking the same thing courage, and that makes you even braver as well.
- Self education! Build coalitions. Make this Multi-Cultural / Diversity Resource Center happen.

Betty:

- The Parade of Nations is September 15, 2007 and was originally scheduled over Yom Kippur, but was then changed.
 - Some people didn't even know what Yom Kippur was. This isn't necessarily ignorance, but just that not all people are educated about everything.

Travis:

- What do we bring forward to have administrators notice (gay slurs written, etc.)?
 - Document cases—take pictures, record time/date/location/etc. After things happen, take to admins instead of reporting each individual occurrence. (Oh, it's just that gay-complainer again.)
 - If nothing gets done—put it online! No one likes their dirty laundry shown to everyone. That will get things done.
 - Keep the President's email handy: gdmroz@mtu.edu.