

October 31, 2006 Minutes

1. Attendance/Welcome

Lex Ruby Howe – Lambda Alliance
Jon Kiman – Lambda Alliance
Ben Linder – Lambda Alliance
Cliff Jones – Lambda Alliance
Kevin Rurak – Lambda Alliance
Ninah Harris, LGBT Center
Bob Schoenberg – LGBT Center
David Wolf, Allies
Keandra Dodds, QPOC
Malek Lewis, DLP
Brittany Binler, PATH
Billy Hanafee, QSA
Rachel Tran, QCF
Rajeev Chanderraj – Wharton Alliance

2. Old Business

a. QPenn planning meeting

- Kevin: not many people showed up b/c of arbitrary meeting time
- When2meet sent out for next meeting – to be held the week after next – see Lambda Alliance general newsletter
- Next meeting – potential concepts, themes, and keynote speakers
- Board to be expanded – get members interested
- Billy: When to get board established?
- Kevin: 2 meetings from now, election meeting

b. Leadership retreat

- Saturday, November 4, 2006 from 12:00-3:00pm
- Please be on time

c. Listserv reminder/newsletter

- Members listserv running – about 950 members
- Send e-mails to linderb@wharton.upenn.edu with events to be advertised in Sunday e-mails

d. Sapphire Fund, Update – no news

- Response by November 10, 2006

3. New Business

a. Advocacy

- a. PATH – University Council, Open Forum
 - Lex met with PATH on Friday
 - Britany: Made outline for UC to get ready for meeting on November 15
 - sexuality, race, socioeconomic, religious diversity training
 - Sue Rankin train select coaches and students who then pass along information
 - Keandra: researching similar training at other schools
 - Lex: Outline went to steering committee which will be reviewed

- b. Gender and Sexuality
 - Bob: Sent list of academic-related goals for this year
 - meeting this Friday
 - LGBT Center social worker – Jennifer Kaminski – working on issue

- c. Admissions and Recruitment
 - Gather statistics from other schools, learn about recruitment tools, forms and identification on admissions forms, affirmative action policy
 - Meeting set up with multicultural recruitment director this Friday
 - Push for more materials Penn distributes to advertise for LGBT students
 - Bob: How was meeting set up? Presumes multicultural recruitment encompasses LGBT, which it does not
 - Lex: 5 boards of minority coalitions meet together and leaders received e-mail from regarding minority recruitment – NOT just LGBT. Want LGBT community involved in discussion of diversity
 - Bob: Unsure if admissions office wants to “recruit” LGBT Students

-Admissions Form: Identifying as LGBT

Pros:

- Bob: Get a list of people who self-identify as queer
- Ninah: Option to get information, rather than identifying as a particular identity
- Bob: Financial aid asks for religion and sexual orientation as optional questions to find additional funding
- Bob: Helping alumni find out who their potential constituents are
 - Penn GALA only has 0.5%-1% of queer identifying alumni on mailing list

Cons:

- Frighten people, deter people
 - “Affirmative action” – check box to improve chances of getting in, whether or not actually queer
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-Some applicants may not want to see that question. Omission may imply queer

-Cliff: Do we want to get people to specify their sexuality when they apply or before they matriculate?

-Lex: Difference between understanding diversity and affirmative action.

-Bob: No way to be given special consideration if a student is queer. There should be more aggressive recruitment to contribute to diversity.

-i.e. Trans student – never held against that student, but possibly help slightly in contributing to diversity

-Kevin: First thing would be to get information of people who have been accepted. On application, could be misconstrued, so it should be considered in future.

-Bob: Some applicants may not want to see that question. Omission may imply queer.

-Bob: Penn is moving towards a universal application.

-Ninah: If admissions office had more information, it would offset not having it on the application.

-Bob: Find out how Hillel determines which students are Jewish

-Cliff: For meeting this Friday, push more recruitment materials.

-Vote for optional disclosure of queer identity on applications:

-Unanimous vote of **NO**

-Research committee to find out more about this

-Contact Lambda board

-Open Forum

-Keandra: Workout group – “Physical Penn” – starting 11/12

-LGBT and LGBT-friendly people

-spinning, basketball, weight-lifting

-David: Allies coffeehouse – 11/29

-Raising money for Philadelphia fight – group dealing with AIDS in Philadelphia

-Billy: QSA dance – 11/17

-“Ego,” 10pm-2am, Hall of Flags

-Malek: DLP winter formal – 12/1 on World AIDS day as fundraiser

-Hall of Flags

-Alexis: Election day next Tuesday

-Ninah: MLK day event – workshop from leaders of minority coalitions on diversity training

-deadline for submitting events – 12/1