Lambda Alliance General Body Meeting 01/20/2010 Minutes

* Ice breaker – Desert Island
  + Corinne likes Legos
  + Celeste is sailing with boats and paddles & maybe Benji can show what real surfing is
  + Too many people are boring with electrical things…psh
  + Kelsey is bringing an entire fro-yo shop with Lex’s Home Depot (obvi lesbians)
  + Victor & Thad should tan together cause they like tan lines?
  + Does Jack have enough space on this island for Philly & the food network?
* Trans/Healthcare benefits
  + Done at other schools 🡪 cost hasn’t gone up
  + Done at Penn pretty much, going to University Council and SHIAC members
  + Should be done easily and quickly this semester
    - Trans population? 🡪 too insignificant to include in statistical counts
    - Cover elective surgery/everything? 🡪 medically necessary designated by the AMA
    - Survey didn’t include anything beside students, faculty, staff, etc. increase the number
* Community Building
  + 9 constituent groups, and others who are not 🡪 community not as tightly knit as liked
  + Planning events together to create community in Lambda, draw in individuals
  + Family Groups 🡪 one lambda board member assigned to 2 constituent groups to meet on a semester basis to hang out (dinner, bowling, BYO) with groups that don’t interact as much
    - How to get people into constituent groups? 🡪 promote extracurricular events
    - What about opening events to the entire constituent group? 🡪 does activism need to take place within a gay group
      * Planning social events that are not related to groups to reach out to other people not as a group member
    - Two groups meeting for the semester? 🡪 yes, small w/big groups, switching every semester regardless of the board members
    - Take place of a GBM? 🡪 nope, no business…let’s have fun…let the fun flow!
    - Busy people? 🡪 worked for APSC and Marianne came to us
* Gender
  + Neutral bathrooms – 800 on campus & lots of manpower to go through them all 🡪 resources from facilities
  + Housing 🡪 outdated, needs updating 🡪 know your roommates, essay process, declare for specific reasons 🡪 work with housing
    - If we don’t do then no one is going to do it, how do we make people get mobilized to do this?/would people come individually or should we split up by groups? 🡪 entire group, come back and celebrate?
* Development
  + Working with student government to get Lambda separate account from LGBT center for publicity and work with SAC to get contingency fund for LGBT events (family events, etc.)
  + Can’t get work from other outlets (T-change, ICF, etc.) come to talk to Justin (his email:
    - Funding for Lambda to affect QPenn? 🡪part of the conversation, sit down with Bob to see what the capabilities are/what they are willing to work with us on
      * No need for it in the past
      * Biggest thing going for us is the events (unique) that are being planned
      * Other cultural weeks get more money as a line item than we do through SPEC in the amount of about $1,000 (roughly about $5,000 and $4,000 or so about $10,000)
* Fraternity Training
  + Met with Scott, wants to increase the training of them
    - Already offered so how will it be changed? 🡪 not entirely sure since Scott is extremely busy and will be meeting next week to go over it more
* Academics
  + Nothing dedicated to LGBT specific studies
  + Pushing the button (under women’s studies) to assess the plans for the future
  + Much more long term than would be liked
  + Anyone want to help out? 🡪 further academics to get that along more
    - How much would we like to see this go forward? 🡪 should go forward, but how is it different than gender studies? 🡪 something recognizable on a transcript so short term turn it into a minor instead of into a whole department movement
      * Does show up in a transcript
    - Should not recreate the wheel since GSOC is supportive with a conference of faculty members on gender issues to make Penn more visible on the world stage to be a leader in queer studies, hasn’t happened yet 🡪 use this to our advantage
      * Faculty member in Gregory College House 🡪 Kendall Love (?) with tenure, English professor with queer issues
    - Could bring powerful people with wants to learn (LGBTQ individuals and allies)
    - How many other schools have this? 🡪 not entirely sure on the exact number, Ivy League? (Yale does for sure) and lots of schools similar to Penn with LGBTQ awareness have them
    - Introducing LGBTQ issues into other academic pursuits for students who don’t want to pursue a major in LGBTQ (History, English, etc. where it can be applicable)
* Mental health
  + Met with Bill Alexander about Men’s support group and women’s support group and issues
  + Need to meet with Bob and Tony
    - Tony is part of Active Minds for Mental Issues and attended conference and wants to start a campaign from other school in Oregon (which school) to help create awareness and how to use CAPS efficiently
    - Lex as a senior saw APSC to remove stigma attached to mental illness and other groups and members of these groups to put themselves out there to admit they use CAPS to promote it being okay (should put ourselves out there to show it is okay)
* Admissions
  + Problems 🡪 other communities readily identified but LGBTQ isn’t as easily identified
  + Bob informs us that there is progress (common app)
  + Admissions department can flag applications that have people come out (put it in the essay)
  + Gender binary on forms, strides with ISC is in violation of the university policy
    - People who go out and recruit other minorities, what about LGBTQ hopefuls? LGBTQ people go to conference for high school LGBTQ students
    - No invitation to have LGBTQ students in high school come to visit Penn, need to get them on campus to show them what we have to offer
    - Where it appear on the application? Probably under demographic information
    - Concerns about students who have parents who might read mail/be outted will be coming through separate letters besides acceptance, online database, send it out to everyone and not simply individualized
      * Send back form?
      * How does this help us?
    - Post admission questionnaire asking demographic questions that include LGBTQ issues
      * Activities website?
      * New Penn InTouch?
      * What about the people who only join a group because they were invited?
      * Great way to search for Allies
* Athletics
  + Continuing to bridge the gap between the LGBTQ and athletic communities
  + PATH 🡪 looking to get mandatory training for team captains and club sport coaches
  + PATH 🡪 events are awesome and only support comes from LGBTQ community, need to see more support from athletics
  + Working with SAAC Student Life Task Force to coerce them to come to one big event for PATH
  + We should all <3 Anna 🡪 talking to Kelsey Hall to get info on the club teams because they cannot be held accountable
    - Department of Recreation 🡪 not as strict as Penn Athletics
* Misc.
  + Work more closely with GALA and other grads
  + Work more with center, faculty, staff, etc.
* Feedback
  + Jason Magnes 🡪 fostering more of a community we should utilize the LGBT center (and the website) more since it is too empty, should be used as a hub of sorts
    - More organized events
    - Longer hours and weekends
    - Box sets of dvds that are popular
    - Netflix account
    - Facebook updates to get in touch immediately with people (Marianne)
    - Center is getting a Wii!!! (bowling competitions?)
    - Twitter account/Facebook updates
    - Sign in when you come into the center to send a message that person x is here
    - Text messaging capabilities
    - Center’s directory (you can be bffls with Erin Cross and Victor Galli)
    - Reworking center’s website so give ideas
    - QSpace beefing up to help promote closeted people to branch into the community/get comfortable
* Constitutional updates
  + Hand out at next GBM, look at it and amend please (it’s 12 pages long…)
    - Recreating Lambda…tear it apart, remake it? Is that right?
* Prob8 and similar
  + NJ failed by small margin
    - Going to supreme court with a lot of support
  + DC passed same sex marriage 🡪 ratified by Congress
  + Portugal passed same sex marriage, needs president approval 🡪 6th EU
  + Judge Andrews won in Philadelphia, judge Segal also ran
  + San Francisco has prop8 on trial now learning how everything works 🡪 on day 6
* Women’s Week Co-Sponsorship
  + Lambda sponsor women’s week?
  + Community should hold events
    - Trans
    - Female LGBT event
  + Concerns about co-sponsoring week might be problem, 0% of events planned by groups
    - Lambda’s rationale is we scratch your back, you scratch ours
      * Explore parts not commonly discussed with LGBTQ issues
    - Is PCUW applying for ICF fund with our name?
    - Keynote has been planned and is a woman who has done some trans work
    - Week before IvyQ (roughly 8th-12th)
    - Unethical due to reciprocal wants, fishy?
    - Keynote address have some focus on trans issues? – makes it more likable
    - Timing? 🡪 right before IvyQ…want to blow people away, what about sidetracked
    - No one feels strongly about sponsoring it
    - What about not sponsoring entire week but single event
* QPenn update
  + Speaker is Dustin Lance Black (Milk)
    - Saturday early evening
    - Finalizing location
    - Cheap to go see 🡪 ticket price not finalized, but will find out soon
  + Reaching out to QSA for help
  + Supplement requests
  + Fundraising 🡪 Patrick is going to use unique ideas
  + Quintin has made an awesome banner
  + First planning meeting on Monday for group’s events, Nurses PUSH and Allies, events?
  + Looking speaker heavy 🡪 if looking to plan event, potential diversification?
* Class Board drama
  + Alec Webley warned against hetero-normity and response was hostile
  + Lambda meeting with Freshman class board next Monday 🡪 will keep everyone posted
    - Trying to educate
* IvyQ
  + IT IS ONE MONTH AWAY!!!
  + $18,700…hoping for a few more
  + Workshops are finalized and still working on space for banquet and other items 🡪 will be done early next week at the latest
  + Transportation is subsidized
  + Corinne working on housing
  + Dennie on programming
    - Groups have been contacted to hold events
    - Encouraged to hold as many events as they want
    - Individuals can hold events themselves
    - Favoritism being shown to groups? Dispelled
  + Funding? 🡪 not coming from IvyQ itself, not coming from SAC…look into T-Change!!!
  + Have an event that doesn’t require you to use money…good advice, kudos Paul
  + Updates are on the website/Facebook group (should receive updates)
  + Housing 🡪185 people need housing!!! 🡪 get this going NOW!
    - Facebook group to invite people to distribute info
    - Update Facebook statuses to get people outside the community
    - Put into Newsletter this Sunday
    - Email people individually 🡪 DO IT 🡪 IT WORKS!!!
    - Make flyers for house deans to post in common areas 🡪 time effective?
  + No planning meetings since few people have decided not to help, but apparently not many did
* Group updates
  + LGBT Center Council – 2 meetings/semester (free lunch)
    - Looking for applications…Feb. 1 and due on Feb. 15th
      * Talk to Matt, Emily, Lex, etc.
  + QPOC
    - Elections
      * Co-Chairs: Tony and Clarence
    - QPOC Satar with JBagel
    - Isis (spelling?) – first trans on America’s Next Top Model
    - Exhibition of LGBTQ artists
  + JBagel
    - Movie screening went well
    - Friday Shabbat dinner – Hillel
  + QSA
    - GBM 🡪 next Wednesday at 8:00 with other school’s LGBTQ groups
    - QSA reaches out to other school’s LGBTQ groups – come with
  + QCF
    - Dinner and discussion on author Chris Glazer
  + PATH
    - GBM and elections tomorrow at Harnwell at 7pm
* Baylee Feore is motioning to impeach Brandon Ahler