LGBT Faculty/Staff Association Board

Minutes (Annual Retreat)

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Members Present: Shawn Bible, Kyle Felker, Mike Kluczyk, Jerrod Nickels, Kim Ranger, Nathan Veeneman

Guest Present: Amy Ranger

Absent: Forrest Clift, Gary VanHarn, Megan Woller-Skar

For this year’s annual retreat, Shawn graciously welcomed us into the beautiful home that he shares with his husband, Matt. He introduced us to the family (3 ancient Chihuahuas), gave us a tour & provided a delicious breakfast. Thanks, Shawn, for your hospitality.

5.1 Shawn reviewed the association highlights for 2012-13.

5.1.1 With the support of Sue Sloop and the Work-life balance program, we co-sponsored the successful program: Wills, Trust and Family Law, presented by Peter Kulas, Esq., and financial advisor, Lisa Dean.

5.1.2 Working with Bob Smart from the CSCE, we awarded two faculty grants for LGBT scholarship for $400 each to Michael Scantlebury and Laurel Westebrook.

5.1.3 We provided economic and participatory support to the LGBT Resource Center for both the Rainbow Social and Lavendar Graduation.

5.1.4 We will be awarding two Prism awards at the fall Welcome Back event.

5.1.5 Shawn, Gary and Jerrod met with Jeanne Arnold last year and gave her a report on our activities. Jeanne referred us to Dwight Hamilton & Sean Huddleson and we met with them to describe our organization and the types of activities we do.

5.1.6 We hosted a number of social activities, including: seven faculty/staff dining room lunches, the annual Welcome Back reception, the Holiday Party, the Valentine’s Gay Party, and ReGaylia.

5.2 Steering committee assignments for the coming year were discussed and the following roles were agreed upon:

President: Kyle Felker

Vice President: Shawn Bible (1/2 year—Shawn is on sabbatical winter semester)

Treasurer: Nathan Veeneman

Secretary: Kim Ranger

Web Coordinator: Meg Woller-Skar

Information Coordinator: Mike Klucyk

Newsletter: Forrest Clift (non-board role)

5.3 The following (Thursday night) dates for committee meetings were agreed upon (4:30-6:00 p.m.; location TBD)

August 15 Oct. 10 Dec. 5

Sept. 12 Nov. 7

5.4 The following (preliminary) dates for LGBT lunches (all in Allendale) were agreed upon with a time change from noon-1p.m. (instead of 11:30-1)

September 30 January 27

October 28 February 24

November 18 March 24

5.5 There was discussion about our history, our existing role, and our future plans given a

somewhat diminished member participation over the past year.

5.5.1 Shawn indicated that about 50% of our current activity is related to social activities, with the remaining 50% related to a combination of community education,

scholarly support, involvement with campus partners, and events & activities that

support students and other organizations.

5.5.2 Nathan indicated that we might get more involvement from members if we

maintained active Facebook & Twitter accounts.

5.5.3 Several fall social events were discussed and proposed in addition to the Welcome Back event scheduled for Sept. 18, 2013.

5.5.3.1 A dinner event prior to Poetry Night (Fall Arts) was proposed

for Friday, October 25 at 5:00 at Grand Rapids Brewing Company.

5.5.3.2 A bar night was proposed for Friday, November 15 at 8:00 to be

held at Pub 43.

5.5.4 Additional brainstorming resulted in discussion about more educational events including one regarding Overseas Travel Issues and Opportunities for LGBT Persons.

The idea of a film festival was discussed as were further co-sponsorship opportunities.

5.6 The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.