EQUALITY VCU
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2013, 12:00PM-1:00PM
MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Amy Hurd, Alex Wagaman, Pat Stauffer, Heather Kay, Camile Rudney, Lorin Hoisington (first-year grad student in sociology), Jeff Wing, and Katherine Smith.

AGENDA:

I. Please send amendments for the June minutes to Donna Coghill

II. Equality VCU Panel during WW: A time for students to hear different faculty and staff discuss their experiences at VCU. Program specific services at VCU. Then a Q & A section after panel- Wednesday, August 21st on panel. Invite both LGBTQIA individuals affiliated with VCU and in the Richmond community.

III. Ice Cream Socials: MCV August 18, 2013, & MPC September 4, 2013. In order to get more attendance at MCV, Equality VCU will attach the Block Party, a social event, to get numbers and graduate students attention from the MCV campus. Usual marketing for MPC event which will be in the Commons Plaza.

IV. PrideFest: (side note: Donna: Medicine with Pride is the new title of the MCV campus group.) Donna met with Sarah Foster, leader of Medicine with Pride, Lisa Webb, co-chair, and Cynthia Schmidt about VCU’s silver sponsorship of PrideFest. PrideFest is September 28th and Equality VCU is hoping to blanket volunteers from 1-8pm. The 1-5 PM time frame is more family-oriented, and the key time to cover for all our groups. Lisa will send out an email soon about potential volunteers for Pride Fest (perhaps through a Doodle poll). Medicine with Pride will do blood pressure checks. Rodney is coming, and Sophie and Zack, the mascots for the children’s hospital may attend, we are hoping for stage time with at least Rodney. Sheldon Retchin and Quincy Byrdsong are other potential great speakers for PrideFest.

V. Campus Climate Pride Index: Jeff & Dorothy: The two events are in one day, Wednesday, September 18th, 12-1PM, Larrick Center, Court End B, and 4:30-6PM, Student Commons Theatre. Equality VCU requested Shane Windmeyer, Dr. Mitchell and Dr. Warren to speak at the event. There is an assumption that Shane will stick around on the MCV campus after the event. Dorothy, Jan, and Jeff are working on getting everything on the VCU website. Equality VCU has two current tasks: recruit a public speaker and observe national benchmarks on how to become more inclusive. Jan says we have the opportunity to shape how Shane speaks to students about the LGBTQIA climate. Keynote speaker could potentially discuss the state of LGBTQIA students at VCU and how to improve the state of higher education. Shane has special interests in LGBTQIA student leadership, the co-founder of LGBT Pride, and could potentially meet with some Greek Life students to promote student leadership on campus.
Campus Pride Index- overview: Equality VCU did an assessment last summer of the LGBTQIA climate. Log into campuspride.org and see our score for VCU.

Options for Shane’s schedule:
- Perhaps lunch with Shane and other students in Shaffer
- Brunch on MCV Campus 10 or 10:30 for brunch
- Meet with students from 2:30-3:30 (tentative) and then Equality VCU provides him with food
- Private lunch with Equality and then later schedule a meeting with students
- Best option is to send out an email to the listserv when Equality VCU organizes events with Shane

Side bar: Equality VCU will coordinate with the following groups: LGBTQIA and Allied Social Work Group, Medicine with Pride, Queer Action, leadership of the SGA for MCV and SGA leadership on the MP campus.

VI. Burnside Watstein Awards: Dorothy: Event scheduled on October 29, 2013. Application needs to go out soon, nominations and a letter are needed in order to further progress the Burnside Watstein Awards. The group contemplated Burnside Watstein Awards could be incorporated into the LGBTQIA community outside of VCU, however, as VCU-focused award, it celebrates a larger LGBTQIA presence on the VCU campus.

VII. Migrating Archives- Wesley Chanault, exhibit that will be at Cabell Library. E.G. Crinchton will talk in special collections on the fourth floor of James Cabell.

VII. T-shirts for Equality VCU. We want these t-shirts for PrideFest, will probably put something simple for sale on something like Cafe Press. Send out to the listserv and it will mainly be used to wear at PrideFest and similar events.

IX. No discussion on Lavender Graduation, instead talk about athletics and movement they have made in order to make it a more LGBT-friendly environment.

Equity and diversity made the list for athletic core values. Long overdue piece of the values.

Lastly, there have been no plans thus far for Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR), however, Equality VCU will concentrate on this for the next meeting.

2013-2014 Meeting dates:
September 17, 2013 (MPC) Shockoe Room, University Student Commons
October 15, 2013 (MCV) Hunton Hall, Conference Room, 2nd Floor
November 19, 2013 (MPC) Shockoe Room, University Student Commons
December 17, 2013 (MCV) Hunton Hall, Conference Room, 2nd Floor
January 21, 2014 (MCV) Hunton Hall, Conference Room, 2nd Floor
February 18, 2014 (MPC) Shockoe Room, University Student Commons
March 18, 2014 (MPC) Shockoe Room, University Student Commons
April 15, 2014 (MCV) Hunton Hall, Conference Room, 2nd Floor
May 20, 2014 (MCV) Hunton Hall, Conference Room, 2nd Floor
June 17, 2014 (MPC) Shockoe Room, University Student Commons

2013-2014 Events:
Ice Cream Social: MPC: Wednesday, September 4, 2013 4pm-6pm, Commons Plaza (backup: Ballrooms)
LGBT Campus Pride Index: Celebrating Inclusive Excellence:
Wednesday, September 18, 2013, 12-1pm, Larrick Center, Court End B
Wednesday, September 18, 2013, 4:30-6pm, Student Commons Theater
Keynote: Shane Windmeyer from Campus Pride
Also speaking Dr. Beverly Warren, Dr. Wanda Mitchell and others
Pridefest: September 28, 2013, 1-8pm, Kanawha Plaza
Migrating Archives: LGBT Delegates from Collections Around the World: An Exhibit
October 1 through December 1, 2013, First Floor, James Branch Cabell Library
Migrating Archives: Artist Talk and Reception: October 21, 2013, Time TBA;
Special Collections & Archives, 4th floor, Cabell Library
Burnside Watstein Awards: October 29, 2013, 3-4:30pm (time change), Richmond Salons,
Student Commons
Lavender Graduation: April 2014 (date and location TBA)