The President’s Commission on the Status of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender issues had a productive year. Commission members were engaged, interested, and meetings covered a number of major issues facing our community. The annual Pancake Breakfast was a great success, and several other projects advanced during the year. Next year promises to be an active year, as well, within and beyond our UNH communities.

Major Accomplishments

- The Pancake Breakfast was a great success. With over 200 attendees, the Breakfast this year featured activist and radio personality Romaine Patterson.
- Safe Zones continued its outreach work with hundreds of students, faculty, and staff participating. This year a program was done with staff in Thompson Hall.
- The Commission created a Transgender Climate and Policy Committee in response to student requests and Commission interest. This Committee was very active, holding a number of meetings and events throughout the year. The First Annual Gender Identities Awareness Week was held from November 15-20.
- Work on creating an alumni database continues and progress was made this year in cooperation with the Alumni Association and its director, Steve Donovan.
- Commission member Michael Staley conducted a climate survey focused on GLBT issues as a part of a spring term course, in consultation with the Commission. Preliminary results were shared at the final Commission meeting of the year and more complete results will be shared with the Commission this fall.
- The Commission Co-sponsored Bill Darrow’s April visit to campus. Professor Darrow is an HIV researcher and activist.
- Commission members participating on the year-long review of the President’s Commissions and in the report suggesting organization reforms in service to UNH inclusive excellence and equity mission and goals.
- The Commission is an important coordinating body where the activities and directions of the various groups on campus can discuss issues, solicit feedback and advice, and plan. Particularly important is its functions connecting GLBT-related student leaders and representatives to UNH faculty and staff.

Current Status of the Commission on GLBT Issues

Major Strengths
The Commission is a vibrant group with significant sharing of ideas, vigorous discussion and brainstorming, and group that provides a focus for several different groups on campus. Perhaps the greatest strength of the group is its diversity in terms of individual members and of groups represented. The Commission serves as an important meeting and workplace for groups representing graduate students, undergraduate students, service groups, faculty, staff, and alumni. The fabric of the membership is truly unique and valued.
In addition, the Commission is known across campus and beyond as the place to go when an issue affecting the GLBT community is raised. An example from this year concerns the fact that married same-sex couples are taxed on the value of their benefits by the federal government. A member of the Commission was approached and asked to explore some relief for this issue at the level of the USNH.

The Pancake Breakfast is a tremendous tradition and unifying event for the entire campus, not just the GLBT community. The Breakfast provides an opportunity to get together as a community to experience our strength, to celebrate, and to learn.

Finally, the flexibility of the Commission is an incredible and a tremendous strength. The Commission frequently responds quickly to changes in climate, to political issues and opportunities, as well as situations on and off campus.

**Major Weaknesses and Areas of Opportunity**

The Commission does not have many weaknesses of significance. However, one weakness may be that much of the membership is actively involved with other groups, in addition to the Commission, which can affect the time they have available for issues specific to the Commission. For example, student members are often leaders in their respective student organizations.

Opportunities in front of the Commission are many and include better coordination of efforts between campus organizations, more events that will enhance the visibility of the GLBT community and foster better understanding, and continued responsiveness to changes in the political and cultural landscape, both on and off campus. Of particular focus in the coming year will be ongoing efforts to better connect co-chairs and members of all four of the President’s Commissions and to work to better align and connect GLBT commission work to that of the broader inclusive excellence and equity mission.

**2011-2012 Commission Goals and Inclusive Excellence Incorporation**

- Work to expand participation in Safe Zones Training, with focus on Deans, Associate Deans and ROTC, and continue its success with long-standing university partners
- Support and help organize the Kidder lecture and GLBT pancake breakfast, with early planning for high profile speakers
- Revise and update Commission website, incorporating feedback from commission and wider community members
- Thorough presentation and discussion of GLBT survey results from Spring 2011, with particular attention to what lessons and action items can be drawn from the data and analysis
- Continuing work with broader community organizations to defend civil marriage and other human rights in the State of New Hampshire
- Partner with NAVITAS staff and UNH personnel working with NAVITAS students for discussion of GLBT and broad inclusive excellence and equity issues within this new program
- Participate in the institutionalization of improved, and more regularized communication between the four President’s Commissions and their co-chairs
At each fall GLBT Commission meeting, the inclusive excellence mission will be reviewed and discussed, with the goal of assessing the current GLBT commission mission and activities in light of the inclusive excellence and equity mission and goals.

Final Note: A GLBT Commission representative to serve on the University Council for Inclusive Excellence and Equity will be discussed and elected at the first Commission meeting in the fall.