Activities for the year included:

- The Commission continued its support for the Transgender Policy and Climate Committee (TPACC), and this year the committee has held meetings with administrators in Health Services to discuss best practices for health issues/services provided for trans persons. They also supported the Graduate Student Senate’s resolution to provide gender identity in the new healthcare student insurance plan.
  - This committee will also be holding meetings with the Registrar and the Banner Steering Committee to discuss technical merits of changing the Preferred Name Status Identifier on class rosters and housing assignment forms.
  - The committee held an open forum luncheon in November as part of Gender Identities Awareness week and provided support for the Transecting Society two-day symposium, dedicated to exploring controversial political topics related to transsexual/transgender identities in contemporary U.S. culture.

- One of the primary focal points of concern this year has been with the NH State Legislature’s movement of HB437, which sought to repeal NH’s Marriage Equality Law. Commission members quickly took action in September by holding a meeting with Tyler Deaton who is a registered lobbyist with the group “Standing up For New Hampshire Families”, NH Freedom to Marry Coalition, and GLADD NH. Members assisted advocacy groups and shared their concerns about this bill by writing emails, letters and manning phone banks asking NH Legislators to vote against the bill. Members also vocalized their concerns with constituents, friends and family members, and many gathered to protest outside the capitol building in Concord. They received the good news on March 21, 2012 that the House voted 211-116 to kill the bill.

- The Commission continued discussions with the Alumni Office to create an alumni database in ongoing meetings with the Alumni Association and its director, Steve Donovan.

- Members will be reviewing the survey summary and analysis from a recent LGBTQ climate survey conducted by Sociology 601 Research Methods class. The survey was directed toward undergraduate and graduate students inclusive of all sexual orientations.

- Our commission chairs participated in meetings as members of the newly formed University Council on Inclusive Excellence and Equity. The Council was formed as the result of the Commission Review process conducted in 2010-11 and is charged with supporting the university’s strategic plan and the theme of “inclusive excellence”. Our representation on this Council provides an opportunity for this commission to have more regularized communication with co-chairs from the other presidential commissions, unit VP/administrators, Faculty Senate, and Human Resources. Council members will also have the opportunity to meet with the President and members of the President’s Cabinet.

This past year, the Council has been working on defining its mission statement and purpose as well as setting up its operating procedures. Each commission was asked to submit a short list of projects and/or initiatives that they would like the Council to address. This commission submitted the following items:
  - Support education toward a more inclusive campus climate for LGBTQ people by advocating for the inclusion of a mandatory requirement in the core curriculum on social identity.
  - Address the inequity of partner benefits; staff benefits for all married couples working at UNH should be treated/assessed equally.
  - The Preferred Name Status Identifier option should be available to all students.
• The commission continued its support for the Safe Zones Training program directed by Ellen Semran, LGBTQ+ Coordinator. This year 51 programs and trainings were facilitated serving 1026 students and 72 faculty and staff.
  o The commission also held a meeting with HR Training Coordinator Chris VanHorn to discuss the “Getting Started at UNH” orientation program. As a result, Safe Zones will now be mentioned in the orientation program, and a handout providing information on the Safe Zones logo will be distributed to new staff and faculty. In addition, a listing of LGBTQ+ programs/events will also be provided.
  o For the upcoming year, the commission will work on expanding participation in Safe Zones Training with focus on Deans, Associate Deans and Department Chairs. A partnership with NAVITAS staff and UNH personnel working with NAVITAS students is also in its early developmental stages.

• With over 260 students, staff, faculty and area residents in attendance, this was one of the largest Pancake Breakfast held on record. This year marked the 20th anniversary of the breakfast, and highlights included a panel discussion with founding members of the Gay Student Organization (GSO). Although the Governor was unable to attend, he did send a letter to the commission that acknowledged the 40th anniversary of the landmark legal decision that recognized the GSO as a legitimate student organization.
  o Special “Founder’s Awards” were presented to Wayne April, Class of 1974; Cris Arguedas, ’75; Roma Baran, ’74; Richard Maxfield, ’75; and Ann Philbin, ’76.
  o Kidder Awards were presented to AJ Jeffries (Student Award), and Dan Innis (Faculty/Staff Award)
  o Pink Triangle Awards were presented to Kelsey O’Neil, Jonathan DiTroia, Sean Moundas, and Travis Pynenburg.

• Commission members held a meeting with staff from the Library Collections/Archive office to discuss the need to develop a system for archiving materials submitted for UNH LGBT history beginning with the 1970’s. The GSO founders have indicated their interest in helping to preserve this history for student reference and for full access in the writing of case studies.

• Work is ongoing with refurbishing the commission’s web site, and this year the UNH brand template was incorporated on the Home Page along with updated graphics for the Pancake Breakfast archive materials. Work continues on updating postings and links for the resource and commission initiative pages.

• Although the Kidder Fund Lecture did not take place this year, commission members actively participated on the Kidder Fund Committee and have organized a working group to work to generate speaker ideas for an upcoming lecture. In addition, another group of individuals will be providing a marketing plan to assist the Kidder Fund Committee in advertising the Kidder Fund as a financial support mechanism for undergraduate and graduate student research projects.

• Plans for a Partner Benefit Forum are also in the works. The forum will be scheduled to take place in late fall and will provide resource materials as well as speakers who will address a variety of topics to include adoption, estate planning, real estate ownership, and health care issues.

• The commission continues to serve as an important meeting and workplace for groups representing graduate students, undergraduate students, service groups, faculty, staff and alumni. The commission provides ongoing support to the Alliance, Stonewall Grads, Queer Caucus, TAG and other student/faculty/staff advocacy groups. Members represent the commission at various events including the Garden Party, Coming Out Week activities,
Gender Identify Week, National Transgender Day, The Drag Ball and other events planned throughout the academic year.

Report submitted by commission co-chairs: Cari Moorhead and Dan Innis

2011-2012 Commission Membership:

Fr. Michael Bradley, Kathi Derby, John Deziel, Sylvia Foster, Dan Innis, Jessie Knapp, Mary Anne Lustgraaf, Shannon Marthouse, Kelly Martin, Cari Moorhead, Sean Moundas, Kelsey Myers, Kelsey O’Neil, Janice Pierson, Ellen Semran, Michael Staley, Donna Marie Sorrentino