President's Commission on the Status Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues

The President’s Commission on the Status of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues had a productive year throughout many leadership transitions. Commission members and subcommittees worked on a number of major issues facing our community.

Membership:
Sem Moundas Co-Chair September to January
Joelle R. Ryan, Co-Chair September to May
Mary Anne Lustgraaf, Co-Chair, February to May

Zachary Ahmad-Kahloon
Mark Anthony
ReGina Chavez
Kathi Derby
AliciaAlec Dufield
Audrey Johnson
Kelly Martin
Kate McAfee
Loan Phan
Julia Rodriguez
Gillian Scott
Megan Tucker
Tamsin Whitehead

Ex-Officio members:
ellen semran
Donna Marie Sorrentino
Sylvia Foster
Janice Pierson

Collaborations and participations

- The Counseling Center provided an overview of the suicide prevention software program Kognito. Through support funding they have been able to include 4 on-line interactive program modules (Faculty/Staff Identifying Students at Risk, At-Risk for College Students module, LGBTQ on campus, and Veterans on campus). The Commission was encouraged to complete the programs, particularly the LGBTQ module, and help inform others about it.
- Discussion of the ReportIt Tool took place. This tool is used for the reporting of bias related incidents at UNH.
- Discussion on the Investigative Report from Spring 2015 took place and the Commission co-chairs drafted an email communication to the other commissions asking that all commissions work on a collective response to be sent to the president and Jamie Nolan, expressing concern about the impact/fallout that the report may have on the victims as well as persons from under-represented groups.
- The co-chairs continued participation in the Co-chair Meeting. The group has been renamed “Advisory Council for Community, Equity and Diversity (ACCED) and the membership has been broadened.
- Two members were asked to represent the commission on the Joint Commission Awards Review Task Force.
- Several members participated in the midyear Retreat for the President’s Commissions, University Council on Inclusive Excellence, Diversity Team, & Social Justice Educators
- Members took part in the President’s town hall style meeting that was held directly following his State of the University Address.

**Major Accomplishments:**

Most commission business was carried out through five working committees which were charged with several tasks. Below are some highlights of their tasks and accomplishments:

- **Commission Events:** Collaborate in the design and planning of the annual Kidder Lecture and Pancake Breakfast, as well as any other Commission related events. There can be involvement in the different time periods regarding event planning.
  - The Pancake Breakfast was a great success. The breakfast this year featured Mara Keisling as the keynote speaker for the breakfast as well as the Kidder Lecture, which took place that same day.
  - The video task group presented the year in review to include local, national and international transgender issues and progress being made in the news. The year in review video was posted on the commission’s web page.
  - Co-sponsored Dustin Lance Black as part of the MUB Current Issues Lecture Series and Coming Out week.
  - Co-sponsored and worked with the Alliance and other organizations and departments on UNH Pride Month (formerly Gaypril)

- **LGBTQA+ Policy and Climate:** Review most recent LGBQ+ climate survey; work to implement changes on campus as recommended on that survey and as needs arise on campus; work on updating a needs assessment connect with local organizations to promote collaboration in policy and climate work.
They continued to work on ideas for refreshing the climate survey and reviewing recommendations taken from the previous survey. Gaining access to the information has been difficult.

- **Transgender Policy and Climate Committee (TPACC):** to partner with campus departments to develop policies that improve the UNH climate for trans-identified students, faculty and staff.
  - Many years of hard work by the Transgender Policy and Climate Committee (T-PAC) resulted in the preferred name Protocol being completed and ready to implement fall 2015.
  - There was an open meeting for everyone interested in learning more about transgender issues during Gender Identities Awareness Week (GIA week).
  - Discussions were held with Campus Recreation on reassuring that a safe space for transgender students will be included in the renovation plans for the Hamel Recreation Center, and assuring that all students are able to participate in intramural sport activities/teams.
  - Met with Affirmative Action staff to discuss gender-neutral restrooms. Fed/State regulations and ADA compliance and procedures for gender neutral bathrooms in academic buildings.

- **Social Media:** To address the Commission’s online presence; discuss the possibility of a Twitter/Facebook group; as well as revisions to the TAG list-serv.
  - A Box account for commission member use was set up. Members may use this site for ease in editing documents with their work groups.
  - There was no consensus as to whether the commission should have its own Facebook page or Twitter feed. Safe Zones and Inclusive Excellence already have a presence on FB. There is also the issue as to who would be charged with maintaining the site, as membership changes from year to year.

- **Professional Development:** To focus on Safe Zones and other professional development programming for students, faculty, and staff.
  - This working group was formed in 2014 in order to determine, coordinate, and share information about options for professional development opportunities for faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students that advance understanding of LGBTQA+ topics. This includes, but is not limited to, initiatives such as the UNH Safe Zones trainings, guest presenters, and workshops held at UNH, as well as sharing information about off-campus training and conferences, and potential scholarships to attend opportunities that are relevant to current and future professional work.
Safe Zones continued its outreach work with hundreds of students, faculty, and staff participating. Though the commission does not perform the tasks involved in the programming, it does continue to “advocate” for the programs.

- **Alumni:** to address planning of events and ways to increase professional connections with LGBTQIA+ identified alums.
  - An invitation to the Pancake Breakfast was created and appeared in an edition of the *UNH Alumni Magazine*. Alums were encouraged to register for the breakfast.

**Unfinished Business**

- The commission co-chairs reviewed the commission bylaws as the section on membership and working groups needed to be updated. They were also updated to reflect organizational changes in the Office of Inclusive Excellence. A final vote by the commission will take place in the fall.
- A commission name change was explored and name possibilities were narrowed down. A final vote will take place in the fall.

**New Goals and Potential Projects for 2015-2016 Year**

- Will support the launch of the Preferred Name Protocol and monitor to adapt to any challenges, spread awareness about the Prezi training presentation, and hear feedback about the protocol’s implementation.
- Will work on creation of material to be housed on a specific “Trans* Resources” web page that will be housed through an appropriate location on the UNH website (e.g., OMSA, CED office, or Commission webpages).
- External committee involvement on the Community Task Force

Respectfully submitted:

MaryAnne Lustgraaf, Co-chair