

Gay Affairs file

STUDENT COUNCIL'S SUBCOMMITTEE FOR GAY AFFAIRS

October 12, 1977

The meeting was called to order at 7:19 PM in the Informal Lounge. Jim Hoehn started by presenting a letter that was to be sent to Mr. Grattan. The letter made inquiries about limited rights or restrictions of gay students. If gay students have fewer rights than others, the subcommittee may want to investigate "gray areas" anyway. Council may want to go on record about such matters before a crisis develops. They should be informed as to the latest interpretations of rights first.

The VD related services research still seems valid despite any delays in receiving legal interpretations. A suggested strategy is to begin research seeking input especially from gays who have had problems before. The specific concerns of gays should be weighed against what Council is willing to do. The subcommittee can suggest how gays can enjoy the rights they now have and poll Council members on other areas.

Ideas on how to solicit comments included the following:

Written statements would be especially helpful with signatures, but could be acceptable unsigned.

Use the press to solicit statements

Suggest kinds of comments (or situations) that we are specifically interested in.

Monty Rieger stated that it would be helpful to solicit any opinion of Health Services-- good or bad. Also because of Public Health's extreme willingness to help in this matter, to initiate an ongoing record of how many students use public health and why. Public Health officials have been very upset by Student Health attitudes in this situation. All statements and results would go to Student Health first to try to remedy the situation before "going public."

Miles Hurd reported that Student Legal Services can't give information to groups as such. Also, SLS can't defend students accused of felonies. The SLS also believes that the ACLU would probably not defend felony cases either. The SLS would advise students on how to get in touch with private attorneys. A question was brought up about lesser charges than sodomy(felony) such as extreme lewdness (misdemeanor). The SLS will defend students accused of misdemeanors.

Paige Armstrong stated that soliciting statements through the GSU since their members may be suffering problems atypical of non-GSU gays. He felt it would be better to go through the press. Jim Hoehn said that he could put the list developed last week into the CD to solicit comments in those general areas. All reports would be used to set general directions for further research. They could also be used to get specific areas for questioning of willing subjects. Besides using the CD to solicit comments, Sarah Berga suggested contacting the University radio stations. Paige Armstrong stated that he could contact WUVA and WTJU.

Sarah Berga suggested in the discussion about Public Health and Student Health to go slowly, especially since the rights of gay students are still unclear.

The next meeting will be held on October 19, 1977 in the Conference room at 7:00 PM. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

The Subcommittee membership expressed concern that the lengthy delay of approval and publication of the questionnaires will have no small effect upon its results. The Subcommittee felt it important to distribute the survey at the end of this year rather than the beginning of next in order to reach the large number of students (first year, transfer, and otherwise) who have not yet "come out" at the beginning of the year. By the time the survey was actually published, there was so little time left in the year that some students simply will not be able to take the time to complete the survey and return it before the end of exams. In this way, valuable input may have been lost.

At this report only a few surveys have yet been returned. The results will be compiled and a report submitted to Council in the fall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Faige Armstrong
Chairperson