

# Council adopts resolution opposing discrimination against homosexuals

By ANNE BRIDGMAN

Student Council has adopted a resolution opposing discrimination against homosexuals at the University.

Council will oppose discrimination against homosexuals in such areas as academic programs, University housing, employment, student services or student activities, according to the resolution.

The resolution states that Council will "oppose any discrimination on the basis of affectional or sexual orientation."

The resolution, which was proposed by Council's Gay Affairs Subcommittee Chairman Jim Hoehn last semester, was passed by a 12-10 vote at the Dec. 6 Council meeting.

The proposal asked that Council recommend that University Equal Opportunity Counselor (EOC) Paul Saunier Jr. "be instructed to accept and investigate complaints" concerning this

type of discrimination", but University President Frank L. Hereford Jr. has refused to do so.

Council President Stefan Underhill said he wrote a letter to Hereford Dec. 19 asking him to instruct the EOC to act accordingly, but that Hereford replied that it was not the EOC's responsibility.

In a Jan. 10 letter, Hereford replied that the EOC's purpose is "to investigate instances in which discrimination in violation of federal or state law is alleged."

"To my knowledge no state or federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of homosexuality or sexual orientation," the letter reads.

The EOC handles discriminatory cases involving age, color, national origin, political affiliation, race, sex or handicap," according to their publicity notices explaining the services they provide to University students and faculty.

Hereford added in the letter that he was not aware of any discrimination based on sexual preference in University offices, and that appeals procedures exist for individuals who believe they have "been dealt with arbitrarily or unjustly."

Among the complaints voiced at Council meetings last semester concerning ill treatment of homosexuals was the throwing of firecrackers at Halsey Hall where a Gay Student Union (GSU) dance was being held in October.

According to Asst. Dean of Students Robert L. Baxter Jr., individual cases of University students abusing homosexual students are handled first by the Judiciary Committee because it is a violation of University standards of conduct.

If the Judiciary Committee cannot handle a case "satisfactorily," it goes

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back to the Dean of Students Office, Baxter said.

Although University police were called to the scene of the GSU dance and have the case on record, it was not ascertained that the individuals who threw the firecrackers were University students.

College Rep. Harriet Knight said the Gay Affairs Subcommittee has presented problems at Council meetings concerning discrimination against homosexuals "but hasn't done any groundwork or presented any concrete evidence."

Hoehn was unavailable for comment.

Knight said she voted against the resolution because "we (Council) are not supposed to be making the moral decisions for the entire school."