

UNIVERSITY SENATE ANTI-DISCRIMINATORY POLICIES COMMITTEE

Minutes for Feb 19, 2007 meeting
Submitted by Kathleen Blee, Secretary

In attendance:

Tom Buchele, Chair
Kathleen Blee, Secretary
Mark Lynn Anderson
Aaron Arnold
Patty Beeson
Kelly Coburn
Jane Feuer
Irene Frieze
Randy Juhl
Emilia Lombardi
Kathleen O'Connor
Vijai Singh

Minutes:

Minutes from January 22, 2007 were approved with minor changes.

Old Business:

Domestic Partner Benefits

Randy Juhl from the Chancellor's Office attended this meeting to explain Pitt's position on domestic partner benefits. He reported that approximately 50 employees/students had applied for the domestic partner benefits and that there have been no complaints in the past year about the eligibility requirements. He does not foresee major changes in the eligibility requirements in the next year. Members of the committee asked whether Pitt should include "union registered with a governmental body" as a criteria that, alone, would confer eligibility since four states (and several countries) not recognize civil unions or gay marriages and argued that Pitt's policy was discriminatory by placing additional burdens on same sex couples relative to married opposite sex couples. Randy said that they would take into account complaints about the policy as they are received.

Safe Zone

A subcommittee met with Vice Provost and Dean of Students Kathy Humphrey about implementation of this program. She does not want the program to have the title 'safe zone' so the committee is considering other titles, such as 'allies.' Jane will circulate a list of program titles from other universities to the committee for input and will work with Vice Provost Humphrey to ensure a smooth implementation of the program.

Military Recruiting

The Army has not been recruiting in the William Pitt Union this term.

Anti-Discriminatory (Tobias/Shore) Policy Award

The award will not be given this year since we have not yet identified a source of funding for it.

New Business

Amending Pitt's Anti-Discriminatory Policy

Patty will check on the steps that are needed to amend the anti-discriminatory policy to include 'actual or perceived gender expression and/or identity', which is the focus of a campaign by the Rainbow Alliance.

Affirmative Action

Tom will invite William Savage to the next meeting to discuss the implications of the Michigan court decision for Affirmative Action policy.

Next meeting: Feb 19, 8:30 am, Conference Room of Law Clinic, Rm 5220 Sennott Square