Bob Gross, 9/16/98 5:51 PM -0400, Response to SQU/QSA concerns

Date: Wed, 16 Sep 1998 17:51:19 -0400
To: bmaulbel1, tyounq1, kclark1
From: Bob Gross <rgross1@swarthmore.edu>
Subject: Response to SQU/QSA concerns
Cc: acobol1, tgoundil, khenery1, jcharlt1, gstott1, mwarner1, mwesph1, tsams1

Dear Ben, Talia, and Katrina --

I am distressed to hear about the two recent homophobic incidents. They remind us of the work we still have to do to create the campus climate that we all want. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on some of the projects we discussed last year that might take us closer to this goal.

1. Public Safety Bulletins

We were asked last year to issue Public Safety Bulletins whenever an incident of hate speech occurred. We discussed this with Owen Redgrave, the director of Public Safety, and as I indicated in my all-campus email last March, Public Safety will be called immediately to document every incident of hate speech. Whether they issue a Bulletin will depend on the nature of the incident.

2. Community Council

In the initial report establishing the current hate speech policy, a Community Council was proposed to consider and respond to incidents of hate speech; this part of the proposal was turned down by the faculty. Such a group would help the community deal with incidents, often anonymously perpetrated, that cause considerable upset. We discussed resubmitting the proposal to the faculty; we also considered using an existing group like the Diversity Task Force. Both of these alternatives had drawbacks, and we decided to use the newly established Dean's Advisory Council, with staff, faculty and student representatives. (We are awaiting SC appointment of more student representatives.)

3. Peer Counseling Network

Anna Maria Cobo and Talia Young have worked with a group of students to provide counseling and support for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered students. Bob Schoenberg, from the University of Pennsylvania, is providing the training in two sessions during this month.

4. Documentation of Hate Speech and Harassment Incidents

Deans Tedd Goundie and Tim Sams are maintaining an archive in the Dean's Office of all incidents noted in Public Safety reports and campus publications. The Acting Equal Opportunity Officer, Linda Echols, will report appropriate incidents. We will find an opportunity to publicize this so incidents can be reported directly.

5. Training of RAs

Tedd Goundie and Myrt Westphal arranged for Dennis Dybiak to conduct a half-day workshop for the RAs during their training on issues relating to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered students.

6. Training of Dean's Staff
During the Dean's Retreat in June, Bob Schoenberg conducted a workshop for the deans' staff on how to deal effectively with campus issues relating to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered students. In addition, on October 22nd the deans will meet with Dr. Ronni Salno, Director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Center at UCLA.

I would like to meet with you to discuss these and other issues you might be concerned about. Please contact me and any of the deans if you have questions. We welcome your assistance.

-- Bob

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SQU Newsletter 1.3 - September 21, 1998

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FROM THE BOARD:
We'd like to thank everyone who attended and participated in last week's discussion about the queer community at Swat. We appreciated all of your input and honesty. Hearing your concerns helps us make decisions about the operation and structure of SQU. (For those who missed the meeting, some of the concerns voiced at the meeting were increased visibility, support, and a more welcome atmosphere to new members and those who are questioning or not out.)

THIS WEEK'S MEETING:
This week we'll get the chance to let our dazzling artistic abilities shine through, as we give the SQU room a much-needed decorating and paint a banner which will be carried in the AIDS walk. As always, we'll have oodles of fun and eat far too much junk food.

UPCOMING EVENTS:
* Will & Grace Premiere Viewing - TONIGHT, September 21, 9:30 pm, Cory Datz-Greenberg's Ville Apartment - Gather in Cory's lavish abode to see the premiere of Will & Grace, a new show on NBC featuring the first lead gay character since our dearly departed Ellen Morgan. As Ben said in the voice mail which you all should have received, we will be gathering in the IC at 9 pm, so that we might all walk over together and not get lost in that wilderness which some like to call the Ville.
* Faculty Luncheon - Monday, September 28, 12:30 pm, in the IC- Meet with queer members of the Swarthmore faculty, and eat food which will probably be a sight better than that of Sharples.
* Lecture Series - Wednesday, September 30, 12-2 pm, in the IC - speaker to be announced.

* SQU Lock-In - Friday, October 2, 10pm-10am, in the IC - It's a slumber party! Watch lots of good movies, eat lots of good food, have lots of good fun.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

* ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT ANNOUNCEMENTS: If you would like to make an announcement at a SQU meeting, please speak to Corey or another board member a few minutes before the meeting, just to let us know what you would like to announce.

* QUEER DISCUSSION GROUP: As was discussed at the last meeting, we are starting a Queer Discussion Group. The discussion group will be a smaller, more intimate and perhaps more comfortable forum for your concerns, thoughts, and problems. The meetings will be held in the SQU Room of the IC, Sundays at 9 pm. If you have any questions, please contact me, Jackie, either by replying to this message or calling x5227.

OFF-CAMPUS EVENTS AND INFORMATION:

* TRIP TO THE ATTIC: This Friday, Katrina (kclark1) will be venturing into Philly, more specifically, to the Attic, a youth-run community center for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. If anyone would like to go, meet Katrina at the train station; she will be taking the 1:55 train, so get there a few minutes before hand so that you don't miss the train.

* GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Educators Network)
NYMetro is sponsoring Breaking Walls/Building Bridges, a Youth Conference for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Youth and their Allies, on October 3, 1998, from 11am-7pm, at New York University. If you're interested in going, please email Talia <talia@sccs.swarthmore.edu> or Katrina <kclark1> before September 24th.

- END OF NEWSLETTER -