

LGBTQIA Commission Minutes for October

10/14/20

12:00-1:00 PM

https://nau.zoom.us/j/94386195021

 Meeting ID: 943 8619 5021

Password: 085259

1. **Commission meeting began at 12:01 pm**
2. **Introductions/Role call**

Chelsea Green, Ari Burford, Stacey Brewer, Shane Canitz, Rachel Krell, Sara Olson, Jeremy LaBuff, Marian Griffin, Felicia Fiedler, Lauren Copeland-Glenn, Amanda Rosas, Calvin Legassie, Amanda Williamson, Melody Waring, Joe Tritschler, Grace Ditsworth, Dee Wegwert, Tyler Cegler, Cher, Shelby Reed, Robert Alberts

1. **Report from Marian and Martin IMQ Events**
	1. Coming Out events wrapped up last week
		1. Know Your Rights Panel
			1. Showed how to access university resources and report discrimination
		2. Out and Proud Panel
		3. International Pronouns Day on Friday (pronouns workshop via Zoom)
	2. Email inclusion@nau.edu if want links to events
	3. November events
		1. Transgender awareness week (Starting Monday, November 9th)
	4. Revamped Transparency Zone and Safe Zone 102
		1. Zoom format allowing inclusion of other campuses
2. **LOUIE and Mascots: The Commission on Status of Women**
	1. CSW asked LGBTQIA Commission to discuss the possibility of joining the movement to change NAU’s Mascot
	2. Discussion on how Louie may not be best mascot
		1. exclusionary as a mascot (white man)
		2. not historically accurate/whitewashing history (original lumberjacks in Flagstaff were predominantly Black and Latinx)
		3. and not reflecting NAU values (hypermasculine/ toxic masculinity, environmental implications)
	3. Brought up possibility of changing to an animal mascot to avoid these problems
	4. Discussion on how to proceed
		1. Reaching out to student organizations to get students involved since students often have more influence on campus
		2. Maybe having student organization lead the charge
		3. As commission, could help handle obstacles
			1. Athletics identified as a major source of pushback because of marketing and identity branding
	5. There were some dissenting opinions that students should take the lead and that the commission’s time might be better spent on other issues affecting the LGBTQIA+ community
	6. Ari called for a vote to support the exploration of this topic with the other commissions
		1. 13 voted affirmative, 3 voted negatively, and 5 abstained from voting
3. **Update on Commission on Disability Access and Design and Disability Pride events: Lauren**
	1. Accessibility in Design Workshop Series (October 16th, 23rd, and 30th)
	2. Virtual Accessibility Scavenger Hunt (October 9th-31st)
	3. October 21st (4-7 pm): Hosting Film “Crip Camp” with guest speaker, Judy Heumann, from the documentary
	4. A Conversation on Disability (October 28th at 4 pm)
4. **How to spend the 4k budget:**
	1. Ari: Should we use some of our 4K by inviting Demian DinéYazhi’ to do a zoom event?
		1. [Demian’s artist page](https://www.pica.org/artists/demian-dineyazhi/)
		2. [A presentation of Demian’s on Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24xFYutSEPM)
		3. Before COVID, had decided to have them as a speaker, but the event was canceled
	2. Ari opened floor for brainstorming other ways to spend the money
		1. Discussion of considering using money to make a more lasting impact
			1. Lauren suggested partnering with student-serving departments, such as IMQ, to ensure that students are included, but that the focus should be campus-wide including faculty and staff
				1. And the commission is a venue for faculty and staff to share student experiences
			2. Option proposed of using money to meet basic needs and covering more costs for LGBTQ+ individuals
				1. Legal costs, costs of binders, food, housing costs
			3. Or a LGBTQ+ COVID Relief Fund
		2. Suggestion of polling students to see how they would want the money spent
	3. Lauren
		1. Said she will investigate if the commission can spend budget money on meeting basic student needs
	4. LGBTQIA Commission plans to vote on events and how to spend the money at the next Commission meeting.
	5. It was decided to pull together a sub-committee to discuss possible events before this vote
5. **Diversity Website**
	1. Commissions are going to be asked to contribute a genuine statement/story about how diversity is supported at NAU
	2. Looking for stories that speak to NAU’s diversity in an authentic way
	3. For revamping of diversity website
6. Meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.