9:55 – 10:45AM

PANEL ON PUBLIC CHAPTER 1066: DEFUNDING OF THE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Professor Beauvais Lyons, Chancellor’s Professor and Faculty Senate President-Elect

Dr. Vince Carilli, Vice-Chancellor for Student Life

Dr. Melissa Shivers, Associate Vice-Chancellor for Student Life and Dean of Students

Dr. Danny Glassmann, Associate Dean of Students

Professor Joan Heminway, Distinguished Professor of Law

Rev. John Tirro, Chaplain, Tyson House Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Fellowship
HB 2248
by *VanHuss

(SB 1912)
by *Gardenhire

Public Funds and Financing - As enacted, prohibits the expenditure of state funds by the University of Tennessee to promote the use of gender neutral pronouns, to promote or inhibit the celebration of religious holidays, to fund or support sex week activities that all funds in the budget of the office for diversity and inclusion at UT Knoxville, for fiscal year 2016-2017, be reallocated in the university's budget and used by the university solely for scholarships to be awarded through a minority engineering scholarship program; any such funds that are not used for minority engineering scholarships in fiscal year 2016-2017 will remain in the scholarship program for use in future fiscal years - Amends TCA Title 9 and Title 49.
Tennessee Public Chapter 1066 prohibits the expenditure of state funds by the University of Tennessee to promote the use of gender neutral pronouns, to promote or inhibit the celebration of religious holidays, or to fund or support sex week; specifies that all funds ($436,000) in the budget of the office for diversity and inclusion at UT Knoxville, for fiscal year 2016-2017, be reallocated in the university's budget and used by the university solely for scholarships to be awarded through a minority engineering scholarship program; any such funds that are not used for minority engineering scholarships in fiscal year 2016-2017 will remain in the scholarship program for use in future fiscal years.
Faculty Senate Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion

Beauvais Lyons, Chair and FS President-Elect

Samantha Murphy
Teaching Council

Brian Ambroziak
Council for Diversity and Interculturalism

Michelle Kwon
At-Large Senator

Monica Black
At-Large Senator

Jennifer Fowler
Faculty Affairs

Lou Gross
Budget and Planning

Joanne Hall
AAUP

Greg Kaplan
Hillel Advisor

Mary McAlpin
SEAT Advisor
WHAT HAS YOUR FACULTY SENATE DONE?

1. Established a Diversity and Inclusion section of our web site.

2. Established a Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion. Held a public forum on June 17th.

3. Developed a FAQ on Tennessee Public Chapter 1066.

4. Posted suggested text for faculty wishing to accommodate student name and pronoun requests in their syllabi.

5. The Faculty Senate Executive Council passed resolution to the Chancellor, President and UT Board of Trustees in support of the UT Pride Center that was distributed at the BOT meeting June 22-23.

6. Advocated for the establishment of an Advisory Board for the UT Pride Center composed of faculty, staff, alumni and students. We worked with Donna Braquet in identifying people to serve. This is still a work in progress, but have an impressive number of people who have agreed to help.

7. Worked to renew Safe Zone Training, which is a key resource for faculty, teaching assistants and students in addressing homophobia on our campus. This is critical to our campus diversity goals.
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*used as singular
VOL MEANS ALL
To Reassure Nervous Students, Colleges Lean on LGBT Centers

By Gabriel Sandoval  |  June 15, 2016

The mass shooting early Sunday at an Orlando nightclub that left 49 people and the gunman dead has heightened fears of anti-gay discrimination and persecution, especially among the college-aged. While officials were still investigating the shooter’s motives on Tuesday, the effects of the massacre were acute among college students — and not just because several of the victims were enrolled in local institutions.
Recently the Tennessee Legislature passed House Bill 2248, which mandates a number of specific measures against the University of Tennessee, Knoxville including the defunding of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion for 2016-2017. As a result of this bill, the university administration has cut back the Pride Center, which works to provide a safe and welcoming environment for UT's diverse LGBT+ communities and facilitated SafeZone training last year for hundreds of people. In response, the UTK Faculty Senate Diversity Task Force invites you to attend an open forum to learn about the challenges facing the Pride Center, and how to support its mission.
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