



Sexual

Empowerment

and

Awareness

at

Tennessee



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### **Students, Faculty, and Staff of UTK!**

We're the co-founders and co-chairs of SEAT (Sexual Empowerment and Awareness at Tennessee) and Sex Week. SEAT is the student organization that will organize and present Sex Week each year at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

We believe in a comprehensive, sex-positive understanding of sexuality that promotes sexual health, pleasure, and empowerment. The dialogue we hope to cultivate will be LGBTQ-friendly, relevant to a wide array of audiences, medically accurate, held in a safe-space, and enlightening. The event does not presume everyone is having sex, so Sex Week will include programming for people who are not sexually active. SEAT will address issues of gender, sex, sexuality, and all the aspects of our lives that are affected by these issues, including culture, politics, religion, and even the economy. SEAT will be sensitive to sexual discourse within larger issues. Sex has historically been a site of oppression; therefore, discussions about sex and sexuality are important because they involve ideas not only about our personal physical and emotional lives but also the sociocultural context in which we're immersed.

This annual week-long event will foster ongoing, open, and productive dialogue and will add to the value of student life and the co-curricular education at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The week-long event will be composed of a variety of events focusing on education and entertainment, including basic tabling, seminars, keynote speakers, talent and fashion shows, and a film series. These events will explore concepts of love, gender identity, relationships, sexual orientation, and sex.

Our end-all goal is that everyone feels comfortable attending any of our events and each person leaves having a comprehensive understanding of sexuality, including health, pleasure, and empowerment. We look forward to bringing an urgently needed discussion to our campus and inviting you to lend your voices to the conversation! See you the first week of April 2013!

Brianna Rader  
Co-Founder and Co-Chair '12

Jacob Clark  
Co-Founder and Co-Chair '12

### **History:**

The first Sex Week was held at Yale University in 2002, and Harvard, Brown, and other prestigious universities quickly adopted the tradition. Ten years later, the Issues Committee of the Central Programming Council brought Megan Andelloux, a prominent

sexologist, to speak to Tennessee students on topics of sexuality. After an extremely warm reception, two UTK students decided to collaborate to expand and bring Sex Week to The University of Tennessee Knoxville, making our school one of the first ten universities in the country to host a Sex Week. The two co-founders felt strongly about bringing this program to UTK and the state of Tennessee because of the need for more openness and justice around these issues, in addition to the fact that opportunities to discuss these topics are rare. Appreciating the diversity and unity of the human experience entails understanding the range of sexual and gender identities we hold and express, including how these are shaped by culture, politics, religion, the environment, and even the economy. College is about education and thoughtful discussion, and that includes important topics like sex and sexuality.

### **Mission Statement:**

SEAT is an organization with the mission of fostering a comprehensive and academically-informed conversation about sex, sexuality, and relationships with the purpose of educating The University of Tennessee Knoxville student body and the Knoxville community through innovative, collaborative, and entertaining programming and events.

### **Vision:**

Sex Week will become a traditional, annual event at The University of Tennessee Knoxville with a sustainable budget and will be recognized as a significant contributor to the value of student life and to the co-curricular education of students at UTK.

### **Core Values:**

1. Open-mindedness: advocate for a comprehensive understanding of sex and sexuality and cultivate dialogue on these topics.
2. Inclusivity: Create programming and facilitate discussions that are inclusive of all beliefs and ideas in order to create a safe environment for open dialogue.
3. Interdisciplinarity: ensuring academic soundness by including all perspectives and crossing traditional boundaries.
4. Sex-positivity: positive reception of others' sexual expression regardless of personal views and embracement of sexuality as fundamental to the human experience
5. Growth and Development: encourage exposure in an effort to help one's self and one's peers enhance awareness, knowledge, and understanding in order to become empowered individuals.

6. Transparency: SEAT will strive to remain honest and diligent in our functioning and work.

**Schedule:** *This is what a possible schedule would look like. Arrangement of topics would depend on availability of speakers, facilities, and funds. First week of April 2013.*

*Ongoing through the week:*

Tabling for Safe Sex and Health information  
Advertising

*Sunday:*

Kick-Off Event  
Keynote Address – Megan Andelloux –(a broad speech, extensive list of topics)

*Monday:*

Topic Speaker – Reid Mihalko – Getting Laid (Rape Culture); Hook-Up Culture on College Campuses; Personal Motivational Speech on Sexuality  
Discussion Panel - Religion and Sexuality (local religious leaders and specialists)  
Seminar – Virginité Conference Part 1 (Aida Mundley)  
Entertainment Event – Sex Trivia  
Seminar – Dr. Tina Shepardson

*Tuesday:*

Topic Speaker – Sinclair Sexsmith – Messing Around with Gender; Literary Workshop  
Topic Speaker – Charlie Glickman – Sex Positivity; Queer as a Verb; The Performance of Masculinity  
Discussion Panel - Gender Roles and Sexual Expectations (in house as much as possible)  
Entertainment – Sex Talent Show/Empowerment Fashion Show  
Seminar – Transgender Topics  
Talk – Dr. Lynn Sacco – TBD

*Wednesday:*

Topic Speaker – Shanna Katz – Disability and Sex; Body Image  
Discussion Panel - Sex and the Law (Law school professors and other qualified indiv.s)  
Talk – Sex Positive Abstinence Education (specific to the state of Tennessee)  
Film Series: Hysteria is an example  
Seminar – Virginité Conference Part 2 (Aida Mundley)

*Thursday:*

Sexual Assault Awareness Breakfast

Topic Speaker - The Mayhems – Sexual Consent/Communication; Non-monogamy

Discussion Panel – Racial Issues and Sexuality (Sex in diverse cultures)

Entertainment Event – Lambda Drag Show

Seminar – How to Talk to Your Doctor About Sexual Issues (maybe an Ob/Gyn)

*Friday:*

Closing Event/Large Gathering

**Budget:****\*Potential Monetary Sponsorships:**

- CPC Discretionary Funds
- BCPC
- UPSF
- Academic Departments
- Local Businesses and Individual Supporters
- Large Corporations
- Non-profit organization donations
- Vice-Chancellor LGBT Commission (along with others that will support)
- Haslam and Chancellor's Honors Programs
- College Scholars Program

**\*Potential Non-monetary (physical support) partnerships**

- All interested student organizations

**\*Item Breakdown:**

- Honorariums for all speakers (All inclusive cost—flight, hotel, etc.) – \$10,000
- Advertising – \$2,000
- T-shirts – \$500 – \$1,000
- Facilities (if needed) – \$1000
- Kick-Off and Closing Events (catering and possibly tents, or entertainment) – \$2,000
- Catering– \$1500
- Miscellaneous – \$2,500
  
- Total: \$20,000

### **Sex Week and the Vol Vision:**

*We, the founders of SEAT, have constructed and planned Sex Week to support The University of Tennessee's VOL Vision. The following is a short description of how the program will help the campus achieve the VOL Vision campus strategic plan.*

#### 1. Recruit, Develop, and graduate a diverse body of undergraduate students:

- Having a program such as Sex Week could help recruit more diverse incoming students. This event is designed to enable prospective students to find a niche and community that gives them the comfort of acceptance they require to make the decision to come to The University of Tennessee Knoxville and to optimize their educational experience.

- Students leave a university when they cannot make it their home. An adequate home provides inclusivity, safety, a sense of belonging, and the opportunity to express oneself transparently. Sex Week will, at least in part, strengthen these elements of home by fostering open dialogue and facilitating difficult but necessary discussions. It will provide a setting in which like individuals can collaborate and learn from each other's experiences.

- Sexuality is an issue that is experienced in academic, social, and cultural settings. Currently, there is no adequate programming that links sexuality to our higher education experience.

#### 2. Educate and graduate increasing numbers of diverse graduate and professional students:

- Sexuality does not disappear after earning an undergraduate degree; one deals with sexuality his or her entire adult life. Sexuality is a public and mental issue in all cultures. Sex Week will recognize that the issues vary from culture to culture, and we plan to provide the tools and knowledge needed to have intelligent discussion and make good decisions regarding sexuality in academic, professional, and personal arenas.

#### 3. Strengthen our capacity and productivity in research, scholarship, and creative activity:

- The state of Tennessee has a history of receiving negative press regarding ideas and topics that differ from previously accepted values. Sex Week is engineered to greatly enhance our reputation as an open-minded, embracing, and though-provoking university that values the opinions of all people and supports the intellectual examination of differing ideas.

- Sex Week's approach will not be a conventional one. We will embrace an

interdisciplinary approach that will cross traditional academic boundaries by integrating various types of presentations and ensuring that all participants are as engaged in the process as they want to be. This is consistent with the “centers-based” approach.

- Sex Week could provide the platform for new, relevant research to be performed or new applied scholarship to be presented. Students have observed that some professors present research to the community that is not easily accessible to undergraduate students. Sex Week can highlight our own faculty in their scholarship in a manner that is friendlier and more inviting to the undergraduate student. The event may, therefore, enhance the research capacity at UTK.

#### 4. Attract and retain stellar, diverse faculty and staff:

- Sex Week is constructed to integrate discussions about sexuality and gender in a way that is academically sound and deserving of respect from esteemed faculty and staff. Sex Week plans to unite the entire campus through conversations that will strengthen the community in a way that only activities such as athletics have in the past. SEAT hopes that the resulting enthusiasm will create a more energetic atmosphere for faculty and staff.

- Sex Week will assist in obtaining and retaining a stellar and diverse faculty for the same reasons it will attract stellar and diverse students.

- Sex Week plans to bring professors from other universities and new scholars for our events but also for the opportunity to have their work vetted by interested faculty and staff at UTK and vice versa.

#### 5. Continually improve the resource base:

- Sex Week plans to solicit health organizations to donate products and other resources to The University of Tennessee Knoxville, specifically the student health center.

- Sex Week plans to bring a speaker, Shanna Katz, who specializes in sexuality in (physical and mental) disability. She offers seminars for faculty and staff that train them for effectively dealing with students who have come to them with concerns relating to sexuality. This would especially be important to the Counseling Center. Similar to UTK’s work with the Safe Zone training, Ms. Katz’s seminar covers a broader range of topics in sexuality that can expand the already valuable Safe Zone program at UTK.

- Several (sex product) companies offer funds for educational purposes. We will be applying for such funds and plan to use them to achieve our mission, and we want to work with campus administrators to attain resources for the entire campus.

## **One-Year Plan:**

*The following is the outline of the One-Year Plan for SEAT and Sex Week. It includes items that have already been completed (May – August 2012) and items that have yet to be completed. This plan is not rigid but is the ideal timeline.*

### *May - August 2012*

- Meet with faculty and staff at UT to gain support and knowledge.
- Contact and Confirm Interest of all external (to UTK) speakers.
- Complete Tentative Schedule, Budget Plan, and Student Organization Requirements as outlined by the Office of Student Life.
- Launch Social Media Ad Campaign

### *August 2012*

- Contact and/or meet with all faculty and staff interested in participating in Sex Week.
- Contact and meet with local business sponsors and supportive organizations.
- Meet with various administrative officials at UTK.
- Carry out any remaining internal communication.
- Begin membership drive.

### *September 2012*

- Shift focus to external issues (contracting, off-campus events, fundraising, etc.) and fundraising within the structures existing at UTK.
- Visit student groups and Chancellor's commissions to seek advice and financial support.
- Solicit participation of all groups who wish to have a voice in Sex Week.
- Publish final list of topics.

### *October 2012*

- Rap up initial fundraising efforts and transition fundraising to fundraising coordinator to lead on-going efforts until Sex Week.
- Reestablish contacts with all faculty and staff participants to work out exact details of Sex Week.
- Have all new members familiarized with Sex Week and mobilize them.

### *November 2012*

- Deal with any remaining or resurfacing issues regarding content and programming.
- Shift focus to marketing campaign and increasing participation.
- Have all participants requiring contracts contracted.

*December 2012*

- Pass exams.

*January - March 2013*

- Publish complete, detailed, final schedule.
- Correct any problems.
- Begin hard media campaign and awareness demonstrations.
- Get as many groups as possible involved in raising awareness about Sex Week.

*April 2013*

- Sex Week (second week of April).

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