

June 19, 2006

FRANCESCO CARUSI  
Co-Chair  
Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Issues  
0403

JAMES FORCIER  
Co-Chair  
Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Issues  
0176-L

SUBJECT: June 8, 2006 GISOI Meeting and Discussion of Committee's  
Recommendations

Dear Francesco and James:

I wanted to thank you and members of the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Issues (GISOI) Chancellor's Advisory Committee for inviting me to your meeting on June 8, 2006. I appreciate your ongoing efforts to improve awareness of the topics of particular interest to the LGBT community at UC San Diego.

Associate Chancellor/Chief Diversity Officer Jorge Huerta, Campus Relations Director Irma Martinez Velasco and I found the discussion helpful for forming our diversity activities in the year ahead. As a follow-up to our meeting, I would like to take this opportunity to summarize the key points of our conversation and respond to the topics discussed at the meeting and identified in the LGBT Focus Report submitted March 2006 and the FY 04-06 GISOI Annual Report.

Since my arrival at UC San Diego in August 2004, a number of organizations have suggested a variety of avenues to determine the climate on campus, particularly for members of underrepresented groups. I appreciate your active participation on the newly reconstituted Diversity Council, which now includes a representative from both GISOI and the Committee on the Status of Women. And, I encourage you to discuss with the Council your proposal for a campus-wide climate survey that would include LGBT-oriented questions. As you know, the next Diversity Council meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2006. I have copied this response to Robert Cancel, Chair of the Diversity Council, to ensure that he is aware of your suggestion.

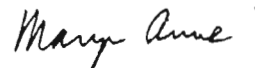
I want to congratulate GISOI for its work in cooperation with the LGBT Resource Center, Housing, Residence Life, and Student Affairs to develop the protocol to support transgender students at UC San Diego. You've championed this issue and I know it is gratifying when you see your efforts rewarded. Congratulations. I look forward to your "white paper" that outlines a proposal for themed housing. As we agreed at our meeting, I will allow you the time to circulate the proposal and gauge campus support before bringing this issue to the Vice Chancellors. I appreciate your efforts on this topic.

We also discussed the re-implementation of a course of study in queer studies. As you know, this action will require significant input from Academic Affairs. We agreed at our meeting that it would be helpful for GISOI to conduct an assessment of all classes UC San Diego offers that include queer studies. In addition, GISOI should seek a faculty member who is willing to be the responsible administrator/director of the queer studies minor. With those steps complete, GISOI and the lead faculty member should develop a proposal outlining the minor, the relevant courses and a list of faculty members willing to participate. Once complete, I recommend that GISOI request a meeting with Marsha Chandler, Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, to discuss the queer studies proposal. I have copied the SVCAA on this letter so that she is aware of your interest in this topic.

I will close with the thought that is uppermost in our minds as we discuss our future and the initiatives that will lead us to our goals: UC San Diego's priority is our students. We strive to do everything possible to ensure that their university experience is broad, diverse, and culturally substantive.

As Chancellor, I will continue our focus on enhancing the educational experience and the overall quality of life for all students and the entire campus community. I thank you for your advice and assistance in this critical endeavor.

With warm regards,



Marye Anne Fox  
Chancellor

cc: SVCAA Chandler  
VC Watson  
Robert Cancel  
Jorge Huerta  
Clare Kristofco