

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues in Academic Studies Advisory Committee

Charge: *To develop plans to assist teachers in making schools, colleges, and universities safe and welcoming places for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender nonconforming, intersex, queer, and questioning people, and their allies to initiate and sustain conversation about the relevance of gendered, sexual, and affectional identities to reading and writing lives, to teaching lives, and to the well-being of students; to promote inquiry into issues of sexuality and gender identity and expression in the teaching of literacy and literature; to encourage proposals for presentation of such inquiry through public meetings such as the [NCTE Annual Convention](#); to support individuals in the production of publishable written reports of such inquiry; and to select excellent proposals for inclusion in Annual Convention.*

The work of the LGBT Advisory Committee for 2010-11 was laid out during the Committee's meeting at the 2010 Convention in Orlando.

The first business was a recommendation that NCTE's charge to the Committee should be amended to read as follows:

To develop plans to assist teachers in making schools, colleges, and universities safe and welcoming places for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender nonconforming, intersex, queer, and questioning people, and their allies to initiate and sustain conversation about the relevance of gendered, sexual, and affectional identities to reading and writing lives, to teaching lives, and to the well-being of students; to promote inquiry into issues of sexuality and gender identity and expression in the teaching of literacy and literature; to encourage proposals for presentation of such inquiry through public meetings such as the NCTE Annual Convention; to support individuals in the production of publishable written reports of such inquiry; and to select excellent proposals for inclusion in the Annual Convention and the NCTE Connected Community.

In January President Runyon put this recommendation on the agenda for the next meeting of the Executive Committee. In February we received word from Linda Walters that that the NCTE Executive Committee had approved our request, with one small change: the omission of "and the NCTE Connected Community" since proposals are not posted on the Connected Community but committee members are free to post and contribute to the conversations at any time. The updated charge appears on the Web at <http://www.ncte.org/volunteer/groups/lgbtadcom>.

Efforts were then put toward enhancing the LGBT presence on NCTE's Connected Community by including links to a variety of resources for teachers. The result, a joint project with the Gay Straight Educators' Alliance, at: <http://ncte.connectedcommunity.org/resources/viewdocument/?DocumentKey=1c90f76f-9fb6-4109-810a-2ffcf38d34fe>

See also the general page "Resources for Teachers, Gay and Straight, Teaching Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues": <http://ncte.connectedcommunity.org/directory/communitydetails/?CommunityKey=e0aecdd8-f04c-4023-b5c1-920013f03f26>.

A third activity for the year was to seek the reconstitution of the Advisory Committee for 2011-14.

We submitted the following request for reconstitution in January:

Request for Reconstitution

Name of Committee: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues in Academic Studies Advisory Committee

Name of Chair: Joseph Dial Date: January 15, 2011

Rationale: Brief explanation of why the group should continue.

There remains much work to be done to make the NCTE Convention a safe and welcoming environment for Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals attending and participating in the work of the Council. At the 2010 Convention, for example, the room assigned for the meeting of the LGBT Advisory Committee was a closet-sized space in use as a storage room for Convention registration materials. Members expressed a feeling of being back in the closet again.

Moreover, safety in the schools continues to be a major concern, one which schools are beginning to acknowledge and address. The Advisory Committee has taken a leadership role in working with the Gay Straight Educators' Alliance for providing, through NCTE's Connected Community, resources for teachers to use in addressing this concern.

The Advisory Committee's continued activity is crucial to help NCTE and its members create and maintain a welcoming environment everywhere English is studied.

Our request was honored and the Committee was reconstituted for the period from 2011 to 2014.

The Committee set to work immediately for greater representation of people of color on the reconstituted Committee and is committed to this goal as it continues to seek individuals to fill positions becoming vacant between now and 2014. The known members of the Committee through 2014 and the year their terms expire are now listed on the Web at <http://www.ncte.org/volunteer/groups/lgbtadcom>.

Joseph Dial, Chair