REQUEST TO ESTABLISH THE GAY, LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL COMMITTEE

This letter and accompanying documents propose that the Senate establish a standing committee to address lesbian, gay and bisexual issues. The University Committee recommends approval.

April 14, 1994

Professor Joel B. Grossman
Chair, University Committee
128 Bascom Hall
CAMPUS

Dear Professor Grossman and Members of the University Committee,

Pursuant to our meeting last semester, we are encasing a proposal to establish a standing committee of the Faculty Senate to address lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues. In responding to a preliminary outreach effort this semester, thirty-eight additional members of the University faculty and staff have joined us in advancing this proposal.

A number of signatories have urged us to make it explicit that in our view, such a standing committee ought to comprise representatives of University faculty, staff, and students.

We propose that the committee have nine members: five faculty, two academic staff, and two students. In addition, we propose that a representative from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Issues Committee, which is advisory to the the Dean of Students, attend meetings as a consultant. We are confident that many individuals campus-wide are eager to serve on such a committee.

We suggest that appointments to this committee be made by the three governance bodies: the University Committee, the Academic Staff Executive Committee, and the Associated Students of Madison. The Dean of Students Office liaison to the lesbian, gay, and bisexual community, is willing to assist in identifying individuals who would be willing to serve on this new committee.

We thank you for the interest and support that you have already expressed to us and we would be happy to assist you in any way possible as this proposal moves forward.

Sincerely,

James D. Steakley
Associate Professor of German

Janice R. Sheppard
Assistant to the Dean of Students
Liaison to the lesbian, gay, bisexual community

(continued)
Date: March 4, 1994

To: Professor Grossman and Members of the University Committee

From: Severino J. Albuquerque, Spanish and Portuguese  
      Nancy E. Barklage, Psychiatry  
      Lewis A. Bosworth, Admissions  
      Jeanne Boydston, History, Women's Studies  
      Paul S. Boyer, History, Institute for Research in the Humanities  
      Claudia F. Card, Philosophy, Environmental Studies  
      Kenneth J. Chraca, Arts Outreach  
      Stuart Churchill-Hoyer, Graduate School  
      Jill S. Dolan, Theater and Drama  
      Judith E. Donmoyer, Zoology  
      Joann F. Elder, Sociology  
      Joseph W. Elder, Sociology, South Asian Studies  
      Donald G. Elmer, Animal Health and Biomedical Science  
      Susan E. Fischer, Student Financial Services  
      Susan S. Friedman, English, Women's Studies  
      Martha Gaines, Law School  
      Linda Gordon, History, Women's Studies  
      Paul M. Grossberg, Pediatrics, University Health Services  
      Janet S. Hyde, Psychology, Women's Studies  
      Susan J. Hyland, Veterinary Medicine  
      Richard P. Keeling, Medicine, University Health Services  
      Robert R. Kowal, Botany  
      Jill S. Kuhnheim, Spanish and Portuguese  
      Elaine Marks, French and Italian  
      Kevin T. McIntyre, Biotechnology Center  
      Dee Andy Michel, Library and Information Studies  
      Astrid C. Newenhouse, Extension  
      Linda H. Newman, School of Education Academic Services  
      Yvonne A. Ozzello, French and Italian  
      Craig M. Roberts, Preventive Medicine, University Health Services  
      Jane S. Schacter, Law School  
      Harold E. Scheub, African Languages and Literature  
      Janice R. Sheppard, Dean of Students Office  
      Marc D. Silberman, German  
      James D. Steakley, German  
      Timothy S. Tillotson, University Health Services  
      Paul T. Wesselmann, University Housing  
      Mariamne H. Whatley, Curriculum and Instruction, Women's Studies  
      Lawrence Wu, Sociology  
      Margarita M. Zamora, Spanish and Portuguese

(continued)
We respectfully approach the University Committee with the proposal to create a new standing committee that would address a range of matters pertaining to lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues.

In advancing this proposal we are speaking on behalf of a large number of faculty and staff members, as well as students, some of whom are currently involved in the work of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Issues Committee (LGBIQ) of the Dean of Students Office; the Gay, Lesbian, Ethnic Minority Association (GLEMA); the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Alumni Council of the Wisconsin Alumni Association; the Ten Percent Society; the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Graduate Group; Bi?Shy?Why?; the Jewish Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Social Group; and the informal faculty/staff association Symposium.

The work of these groups on our campus begins to suggest the range of issues at stake here, but at present there is no formal group or committee addressing lesbian, gay, bisexual faculty/staff and academic issues in a focused and comprehensive way. As we envision it, this new body would be in a position to:

- foster relevant teaching and research
- facilitate interdisciplinary and interdepartmental communication
- convene scholarly conferences
- consider discrimination and career advancement concerns

- act as a resource on matters such as recognition and benefits for employees' domestic partners.

By establishing a standing committee on lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues, we will be moving in a direction which has already been taken by many public and private colleges and universities here and abroad, including distinguished research institutions.

cc: Chancellor David Ward
Interim Vice Chancellor Richard L. Barrows
Associate Vice Chancellor Betsy Draine
Associate Vice Chancellor Gary Sandefur
Dean of Students Mary K. Rouse
Secretary of the Faculty David E. Musolf
Secretary of the Academic Staff Stephen A. Myrah