



Minutes for General Meeting Thursday 24th September 2009

- 1) **Attendance:** Adam A, Andrea G, Britt S*, Corey S, Edmund L, Fariya M*, Francis K, Giancarlo P, Jess B, John G*, Laura C, Luke V*, Matthew G*, Peter T, Rachel P, Rama L, Tai N, Tony D (*denotes executive member)
- 2) **Review of Queer Orientation and Homohop:** Meet and Greet was deemed very successful by those who attended. It was a lot better than last year and the food and bar was appreciated. There was a huge crowd and the event lasted until the early morning. (Fariya needs the invoice from Sammy's.)

Drop-in Centre open house was also packed. At times, there wasn't enough space inside for all the guests. The room had been cleaned up the week before, so there was an abundance of organized information and handouts for people to take.

BBQ/ BBQ was a success. Nearly all of the food was used up. A lot of promotional material was passed out during the event.

Homohop was a great success. Expenses (\$964) were slightly higher than the budgeted amount (\$920), but this was mitigated by a \$2359.56 profit.

Any comments or suggestions for future events are welcome!

- 3) **Ratification of Directors:** The appointments of Rachel P and Jess B for Drop-in Centre Director and Zine Director, respectively, were ratified.
- 4) **Elections:** Laura C was appointed to be the Chief Returning Officer for the election of the Exec-at-Large and the by-election for External Co-ordinator. The nomination period was opened Tuesday 27th September and will run until the next General Meeting when elections will be held. The date for this will be announced shortly over the listserv and on Facebook.

Anybody interesting in running for these positions (the responsibilities for each position is listed at Article IV, Section 1 on page three of the LGBTOUT constitution, which can be found at <http://www.lgbtout.com/about/constitution.pdf>) should submit

a 100-word statement of candidacy to cro@lgbtout.com. Only self-nominations are accepted.

- 5) **Scheduling of meetings:** So that we can have as many people as possible attend our meetings and activities, please vote in our availability poll on our website (<http://www.lgbtout.com>). The survey runs until Saturday 10th October.
- 6) **Drop-in Centre Training:** Training for Drop-in Centre volunteers was held on Saturday 26th September. For those who could not attend, a second session will be held in the winter term. Fariya expressed concerns to Corey about the lack of drinks during Drop-in Centre training.
- 7) **Zine:** Zine Director Jess Bowman talked about her vision for the Zine, and members also discussed their thoughts and concerns. A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 6th October at 12pm in Sussex Clubhouse room 503. Contact jess.bowman@utoronto.ca for details.

Suggestions for titles are sought, as well as art, poetry, opinion, political pieces, socially conscious ideas, and anything else you can think of.

- 8) **Student Spa Luau:** Theme is Oktoberfrosh, and will be held at St-Marc Spa on Thursday 8th October at 9pm. Corey is looking to get outreach groups to be present at the event.
- 9) **Budget proposal:** Budget needs to be submitted to UTSU. Fariya has done this; contact her if you would like to see it. Notable expenditures this year include trade-marking the Homohop, the Zine, and new events.
- 10) **Establishment of caucuses:** This will be further discussed. Stay tuned for information. In the meantime, we invite you to pick up our caucus pamphlet at the Drop-in Centre. Email homohop@lgbtout.com for more information.
- 11) **Event brainstorm:** Members came to the conclusion that LGBTOUT needs to be a place for those of all backgrounds and that our mandate is that we are to act as a forum for discussion of issues related to the queer community at the University of Toronto.

Within this framework, the following ideas were discussed:

- 40th anniversary of LGBTOUT, possible gala.
- Conference and possible panel discussion on the criminalization of AIDS.
- Tea party, with cucumber sandwiches. Similar to Meet and Greet.
- Collaborating with graduate LGBT group.
- Queer Salons: sit-down social event talking about issues in queer culture. One was done previously about gay media ads and target audiences. Somewhat like a panel discussion, but very informal and anybody can talk and it is not really moderated.
- Expression Against Oppression: week-long series of events about different types of oppression.

- Carnival themed event: game booths, popcorn, etc. Dress-up parties.
- Launch party for the Zine.
- Queer sporting events. Outings to see games. Go to practices.
- Wine tasting!
- Gays in the Middle East, an event should be focussed on this.

12)**Endorsement of Drop Fees campaign:** After an exceptionally rigorous debate, the executive committee unanimously endorsed the following motion.

“Whereas members of the Queer community experience a higher rate of poverty than those who do not identify as queer;

Whereas members of the Queer community face increased barriers to accessing social services, healthcare, education, and employment, often because of explicit discrimination but also because of implicit phobias and biases; and

Whereas individuals who break gender norms face increased barriers in accessing education, healthcare, and employment;

Be it resolved that LGBTOUT endorse the Campaign for a Poverty-Free Ontario.”

This is **important** because it will be put forward for consideration by all voting members at the next general meeting (date to be announced shortly). As this has the potential to be a somewhat controversial matter, we invite all those who have a feeling about this issue, one way or another, to attend and express their thoughts.

13)**Adjournment.**