
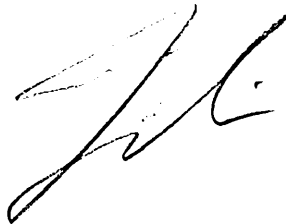


MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Jack Reese  
Dr. Howard Aldmon

FROM: Philip A. Scheurer 

DATE: September 27, 1973

RE: Gay Liberation 

The following information concerning the repeated attempts of the Gay Liberation group to receive recognition as a student organization at UTK is submitted for your information. I have compiled appropriate supportive data in an orderly package that can be used to support the following annotated chronology. We need to discuss this material with University legal counsel at the earliest moment as I recently received another request for recognition from the Gay People's Alliance.

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November, 1970 - Proposed constitution of the "University of Tennessee Gay Liberation Front" is submitted to the Student Activities Office for transmittal to the U.S.A.O.B.

December, 1970 through February, 1971 - U.S.A.O.B. meets frequently to examine what appears to be a sensitive issue. Said group makes an independent "legal" inquiry into the appropriateness of the recognition process and samples other institutions which are facing similar issues.

March 3, 1971 - U.S.A.O.B. votes to recommend to the Dean of Students that recognition be extended to the Gay Lib subject to some subtle (and unrelated) housekeeping changes in the original constitution.

March 4, 1971 - Robert Schneeweiss, U.S.A.O.B. member, notifies organization president, Kyle W. McDaniel Jr., that U.S.A.O.B. has recommended recognition and that Gay Lib may begin operations on March 14, 1971 unless otherwise notified by Dean of Students. (Hilltopics procedure)

March 5, 1971 - Thomas Scott, Dean of Students, notifies Gay Lib that U.S.A.O.B. recommendation is rejected.

- March 17, 1971 - Officers of Gay Lib appeal Scott's veto to Howard Aldmon asking that the Administrative Council be convened to review the matter. Group claims that Scott's veto violated basic University policy and the constitutional rights of GLF members.
- March 24, 1971 - Gay Lib requests Philip Scheurer to provide meeting space for the organization to prepare an appeal to the Administrative Council.
- March 29, 1971 - Scheurer informs Gay Lib that the organization may have two meetings in the University Center in order to prepare an appeal to the Administrative Council.
- April 19, 1971 - Aldmon informs Mc Daniel that Administrative Council will hear the appeal at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 22, 1971.
- April 22, 1971 - Administrative Council meets and, after considerable discussion, passes the following motion with three dissenting votes "The Administrative Council recommends to the Chancellor that the Gay Liberation Front not be granted University recognition as a student organization. This decision to recommend denial of recognition is based on current public policy of the State of Tennessee."
- April 23, 1971 - Aldmon notifies McDaniel and Chancellor Weaver of Administrative Council's action.
- April 24-26, 1971 - Gay Lib prepares revised constitution.
- April 27, 1971 - U.S.A.O.B. meets to reconsider revised GLF Constitution and to consider request of GLF to hold an open hearing on the subject of recognition. U.S.A.O.B. passes a motion to hold an open hearing.
- April 28, 1971 - U.T. Civil Liberties Union protests handling of GLF effort to obtain university recognition to Aldmon. Group suggests that University drop entire "recognition" process.
- May 3, 1971 - Open hearing on Gay Lib recognition is held in the Shiloh Room of the University Center. Prepared papers are read to approximately 25 participants.
- May 3, 1971 - Chancellor Charles Weaver accepts recommendation of Administrative Council and so informs Aldmon and McDaniel.
- May 4, 1971 - Gay Lib submits "revised" constitution. U.S.A.O.B. recommends to Scott that Gay Lib be offered formal recognition as a student organization in accordance with their revised constitution.
- May 5, 1971 - U.S.A.O.B. advises Scott of its affirmative recommendation.

- May 12, 1971 - Arthur Stowers, Staff Attorney, advises Scott that Statement of Purpose in revised constitution is illegal under state law.
- May 13, 1971 - Scott advises Gay Lib officers that, based on legal interpretation of Statement of Purpose in revised constitution, the recommendation of the U.S.A.O.B. is again rejected.
- May 13, 1971 - McDaniel requests that Aldmon reconvene Administrative Council to review Scott's second veto.
- May 14, 1971 - Scott corresponds with Schneeweiss and Richard Leggitt, U.S.A.O.B. official, concerning his most recent actions.
- May 19, 1971 - Aldmon notifies McDaniel that every effort will be made to convene the Administrative Council before the termination of the Spring Quarter.
- May 26, 1971 - Aldmon calls meeting of the Administrative Council for 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 1.
- June 1, 1971 - The Administrative Council meets and, with one abstention, passes the following motion: "The Administrative Council recommends to the Chancellor that the Gay Liberation Front not be granted recognition as a student organization. This decision to recommend denial of recognition is based on current policy of the State of Tennessee."
- June 7, 1971 - Aldmon notifies Chancellor Weaver and Kyle McDaniel of the action of the Council.
- June 16, 1971 - Chancellor Weaver notifies Aldmon that he accepts the recommendation of the Administrative Council to deny recognition to the Gay Liberation Front.
- May-June 1971 - Student Government Association incorporates a "Gay Liberation Board" into its new constitution. Entire constitution remains unaccepted by the UTK administration and S.G.A. is notified by Scheurer that said "Board" will not be allowed meeting space in university facilities.
- September 24, 1971 - Jonathan Slack, representing the Gay Liberation "Board", seeks Scheurer's approval for meeting space. Request is denied. Aldmon and Dykes are so notified.
- October 8, 1971 - McDaniel requests that Chancellor Dykes approve the Gay Lib as a campus organization under the Student Senate "Board" concept.

October 22, 1971 - Dykes responds to McDaniel that the creation of a Gay Liberation Board would negate current University policies requiring procedural due process and ignore actions taken last year by the Administrative Council and the previous Chancellor.

September 24, 1973 - Proposed constitution for the Gay Peoples Alliance is submitted to Scheurer for processing. Group is requesting recognition as a student organization.

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Three documents are made a part of this correspondence.

1. Original Constitution of Gay Liberation Front
2. Revised Constitution of Gay Liberation Front
3. Proposed Constitution of Gay People's Alliance

In my judgement items 2 and 3 are substantially the same. In fact, I'm told that the purpose of their submitting the proposed constitution of the Gay People's Alliance in its present form was to facilitate our rejecting the constitution once again.

It seems that the group is anxious to exhaust all administrative channels so that the issue may be tried on its merits in court. In view of all factors I recommend that I send a letter to Kyle in which we establish the following points:

1. The revised constitution of the Gay Liberation Front and the proposed constitution of the Gay People's Alliance are essentially the same.
2. In that the Administrative Council has previously taken action on the matter and as the new Chancellor agrees (assuming that he does) with the action taken by the Administrative Council, the matter should now be referred to the President for his review.

This approach would serve everyone's purposes and would eliminate the seemingly purposeless round robin of appeals that starting from scratch once again would necessitate.

PAS:tb

cc: John Baugh  
 Art Stowers  
 Charles Smith