

## Agenda

Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Present: Mary Ann Hollander, Caitie France, Tim Perkins, Andrew Eaton, Sara Branson, Kristen Leamur, Jessica Fiebig, Chelsie Caldwell, Tyler Folan, Colin Chambers, Michael Armato, Brad Dixon, Alex Williams, Kate Prather, Blake Fletcher, Johnny Fuggitt, Emily Abdoler

Absent: Morgan Romine

- I. Invocation- E. Abdoler
- II. Call to Order- C. Chambers
- III. Financial Report- T. Perkins- 10,000 dollars
- IV. Old Business
  - a. Locally Grown Update- E. Abdoler- I spoke with Fred and he has been unable to find any suppliers for locally grown produce as of yet. We will meet with him again after this week to see if there is anything specific we can do to help him
  - b. Trustee Report- Sara Branson and Colin Chambers- Mark Van Tillburg spoke about how Jewell is known and recognized in the metro area as well as across the state and nation. They are looking at different zip codes to see where more need for knowledge about Jewell lies. Emily and Brad- Academic Affairs and student life- They dealt with mostly how to uphold the Christian mission of the college and how it ought to be held up in hiring and tenure issues. It's addressed currently by asking "What church do you attend currently" in the applications. They are evaluating whether or not that needs to be reworked as Jewell grows academically and socially. Second issue- whether or not faculty ought to be Christian. It was assumed before that all faculty were Christians, now the criterion that all faculty ought to be Christians should be reevaluated, perhaps rework wording. Finance and Administration- Blake Fletcher- CFA representing Jewell- hedge funds are doing quite well. Also- point of interest- indicated interest in advising the college to invest in international/foreign stock.
- V. New Business
  - a. Security Grievances- Colin Chambers- If tickets aren't paid or taken away before registration, the student won't be able to register. Security Grievances will be next Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 3-5pm in Student affairs. Please sign up for a time slot. Help spread the word. We will post flyers and post on the intranet.
  - b. Sean Riordan- Issues- TV in the Cage- can Senate put money toward getting a remote control that is tethered to the TV so that we can get use out of the TV we spent so much money on? C. Chambers- We will attempt a way to strap it onto the TV so it could be used. Sean- I'd also like to petition to student affairs and trustees that visitation be extended to midnight on weekdays and one on the weekends. Zakiya Tanner- The RAs would have to stay up that much later. E. Abdoler- we could possibly bring this up again to Rick if a committee was willing to come up with a proposal (Student Affairs committee- Michael Armato)
  - c. Dinner with the Sallees on November 8<sup>th</sup>- I need your information, email me.
  - d. Armato- What about a replacement senator for Callen Banes? Colin- We haven't publicized the open spaces very much yet. We want the word to get out there to as many people as possible that there is a sophomore and senior opening. We will get on that soon and hopefully have that person appointed by next weeks meeting.

e. Brad Dixon- Sexual Orientation Clause- See end of minutes. From previous experience, cabinet realizes this discussion could be come lengthy and possibly nasty. It'll be limited to 10 minutes and will be brought up next week at our town hall meeting next week in place of senate meeting to talk about this issue further. Johnny Fuggitt- is this something that senate votes on? C. Chambers- This is an amendment to the Bill of Rights- senate votes to send it to the senate body to be voted on by the senate body where it would need a simply majority to amend the bill of rights. If Senate does not pass it (by 2/3) it dies. Lilia Toson- Two years ago senate did defeat the amendment then a group of students started a referendum which required a quarter of those who voted in the last general vote, then it was brought to the student body. Bryan Peters- As a senior I have two things to bring up- I want to affirm all of the intentions, but language is very incredibly important- first the word discrimination has been used at other colleges to do more than prevent physical harm but kept Christian groups from doing things within the group. Other words- sexual orientation. These words imply a different world view than Christian- but another world view that condones the terms of sexual orientation. Armato- I think something needs to be said about what we mean about discrimination- rejection of any prejudice against someone else on this campus. I challenge you to look at sexual orientation as something that would apply to homosexuality, heterosexuality, bisexuality, tran sexuality. Bryan- It's exactly that non-favoring that throws me for a loop. I'd like to reserve the right to discriminate against a person dealing with their actions. What happens at other Colleges is that speech can be limited by this phrase, so I couldn't say exactly what I mean in the groups I lead. Sean- If your church requires that you go to some sort of service but you're physically unable to do so is considered a sin, I think this falls under the same sort of umbrella, as this isn't necessarily something that you choose. I'd like to echo support for Brad- he did a perfect job of putting my thoughts into words tonight. James Luce- In a list of factors it reads both religion and sexual orientation. I don't see how these two phrases could not be contradictory. Alex Williams- To consider- for each phrase there is not a detailed outline as to what the discrimination actually entails, etc. Emily Abdoler- I'm extremely interested in this debate. I think this debate about freedom of speech is interesting when we're talking about discrimination against a certain group of people. I don't think this issue of freedom of speech really applies when we are talking about- it seems to be a tradeoff- who do we favor in terms of rights? It seems rather circular to me. Alex- I think that's a valid point. There's going to be discrimination through both groups- Freedom of speech would allow you to say something discriminatory to a person, but once they say "never say that again to me" then it would be come discrimination once it was continued. Sean- The idea behind the amendment applies when actually dealing with situations such as appointing a new senator, accepting someone for admittance. Josh Hastey- One of the things student organizations would like to preserve is the ability to be discerning. When we are evaluating people for leadership positions, we consider whether or not the person is showing characteristics which the group could condone or endorse. We want to reserve the right to be discerning and to decline people based on say sexual activity. Brad- We have religion in the clause, and we don't have problems with Jewish or Muslim people trying to be leaders in Christian leadership. Emily- I move to table this discussion until next week at the town hall meeting.

VI. Student Correspondence

Sara- I came from CUA- Jars of Clay is this Fri at 8:30. There are 100 tickets left on I-Tickets. Halloween dance next Monday from 9:30-12 in Brown theatre.

Armato- Some students want the steps up from Kansas to be trimmed so they don't get wet walking up to the quad.

Alex- Is R.E. Bowles a public street? Colin- I think it's still a private street but there was a student who got a ticket on that street but apparently Rick said they aren't going to stop the police from giving tickets on that road.

Darin Smith- Tonight there'll be a DVD session about Truth and Love- Same Sex behavior and the Bible.

Ben Parrott- we are doing a giving campaign this Thursday and Friday. We'd like you to make a donation based on amount of money spent on other than water beverages and donate that.

Email Tim about Hayride

## VII. Shoutouts

Chelsie- to Fred Vocke for bringing out the honey nut tostie-os

Armato- fun and interesting homecoming events all this week

## Brad Dixon's Proposed amendment

A Proposed Amendment to the Student Bill of Rights submitted by Bradley Dixon on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

Section one clause four of the Student bill of rights currently reads:

“All persons are equal and shall not be discriminated against on the basis of sex, physical limitations, race, ethnicity, or religion“

I propose that the clause be amended to add sexual orientation to the list. The proposed change would result in the line reading:

“All persons are equal and shall not be discriminated against on the basis of sex, physical limitations, race, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation.”

I propose that sexual orientation be added to the list of qualities that we, as a student body, affirm should be protected from discrimination.

I am doing this for two reasons. One: there is a significant number of students on campus who feel that this addition should be made. And Two: I personally feel that this issue is an important one and deserves full consideration. Our campus has been silent and idle about this issue for long enough. I am painfully aware that this issue has caused division and animosity in the past, but I don't believe that that is a good enough reason to stand by and accept the status quo. I do not pretend that this issue is a simple one. In fact, it is an issue over which I have been torn my years here at Jewell. The intersection between religion, morality and public life has always proven to be difficult ground to navigate. This remains true, even in an environment such as Jewell.

I would like to briefly explain where I am coming from and why I have made this decision. I have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord of my Life. I do whatever I can to show the love of Christ through both my words and actions. As most Christians do, I fail miserably. I recognize that and I strive every day to come closer to and reflect God's image. This is the basis upon which I confront this issue. The question of whether homosexuality is a sin, I believe, is irrelevant as to whether people with alternative lifestyles deserve to be safe from discrimination on campus. Jewell promotes itself as being a community of faith and learning and is striving toward the noble goal of increasing diversity. I do believe that to be the case. But being a community of faith does not mean discriminating against those with whom we disagree or disapprove. The foundation upon which Christianity stands is very simple. It is to love God with all your heart, your soul and mind and, secondly, love your neighbor as yourself. The challenge that Jesus gave to us is not to root out sinful people and condemn them, but to love them as Jesus loves us. For the basis of human dignity lies in the fact that while we were still sinners, Jesus died for us. I do not claim to be a theologian and I am not here to argue points of doctrine. I am here to say that every child of God deserves to be treated in a certain way and to deny this respect due to God's children, because of sexual orientation, is not only wrong but also sinful.

I have been considering these points for many years now. It is possible that I am making them sound more simple than they really are. But I keep coming back to a simple scenario that makes my decision painfully clear. Could you imagine with me a scene in which a mob is about to murder a homosexual by stoning him or her. Can you imagine what Jesus would do when coming across that scene? I can't imagine him saying well done, you have rooted out sin among you, cast the stone and rid us of this plague on society. That is not the Jesus I know and this is not the Jesus that I am learning to love more, day by day. The Jesus I know would confront the mob and say he who is without sin cast the first stone. What I am saying to you is that discrimination is that stone and it is neither our right nor our duty to cast it. In saying that we have no right to discriminate against homosexuals, we are not promoting that behavior. Jesus protected a woman caught in the act of adultery. He was not protecting adultery but admonishing it, while at the same protecting a child of God, who has infinite value.

There are many fronts that are being fought in the culture wars. Christian morality, every day, is being fought against, ridiculed and disrespected and there are proper fronts through which to fight the secularization of America. But this is not one of those fronts. This is not a left wing agenda or homosexual activism, but a plea for all Christians to recognize the inherent dignity of every person and, to show Christ's love through respect and tolerance rather than condemnation. I look forward to discussing this issue with the whole of Senate and the campus community, and I urge everyone to give this the consideration that it deserves.