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## University

# Gays, lesbians criticize task force draft plans

By Stephanie Dickey  
Emerald Contributor

Frustration has been voiced about the President's Task Force on Lesbian and Gay Concerns, organized by University officials as a result of assaults on ASUO candidates during last April's elections.

Former University President Paul Olum made the commitment to set up the task force after candidate Maureen Kirk claimed she was physically assaulted while handing out election information outside the EMU and candidate Tim Hughes received death threats.

Last summer Gerard Moseley, vice provost for student affairs, hired Hughes and student Barbara Ryan to compile scope and membership information from similar task forces at other universities.

However, according to Hughes, Moseley's final draft of the task force was vastly different from the recommendations proposed by Hughes and Ryan.

Hughes said one important recommendation made to Moseley was that half of the committee membership be students and the other half faculty and staff. Moseley appointed five students and 11 University employees.

Although the task force ini-

tially was planned to begin fall term, the University committed a "major flaw" by not having any meetings fall term, according to Laurel Sharp, co-director of Gay and Lesbian Alliance.

Sharp feels that the timeline is so stringent there won't be enough time to accomplish anything other than research.

She said she is frustrated by the slow pace the University has taken in setting up the task force and feels there are some basic actions that could take place before the task force reports its findings.

Sharp said homophobia training for administrators and professors, as well as "acknowledging gays, lesbians and bisexuals in academics," are essential in eliminating homophobia.

University affairs coordinator Kirk Bailey was appointed to the task force. However, Bailey and ASUO vice president Scott Wyckoff will resign from the committee in order to allow someone more qualified to replace them.

Being a "white, heterosexual male," Bailey said he does not feel he is the best representative for the task force. He said he and Wyckoff will make recommendations to Moseley for better-qualified ASUO representatives.

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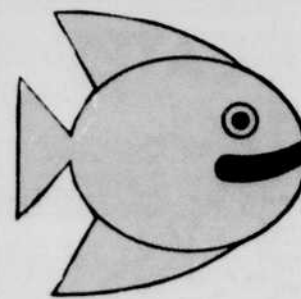
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