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gender issues — also would improve the University, Huber said.

"I feel it's wonderful that they're going to have those other classes on racial and gender issues, but people also need to know about disabilities," she said.

**Equal requirements**

GALA co-director Laurel Sharp also said courses dealing with gay and lesbian issues should be available for students, and she already has tried unsuccessfully to get such classes offered.

"The reason is, they don't choose course content on the basis of sexual orientation, but they do on the basis of color and sex," she said. "Really they were just being homophobic ... and obviously unconcerned about the issues."

"I think that the course requirement should include the study of gay and lesbian culture," she added.

Brand said the requirement probably will incorporate gay and lesbian issues. "I can imagine a good course on gender issues would touch on those subjects," he said.

But Sharp noted that classes currently offered which should bring up gay and lesbian issues fail to mention them at all.

"If I go to one more civil rights class where the professor doesn't talk about gay and lesbian civil rights, I'm going to spit," Sharp said, adding that education about gay and lesbian concerns is important because there has been a distinct lack of it in the past.

The quality of education about these issues could be improved if the University would recruit gay and lesbian faculty as well as women and people of color, Sharp said. With all the talk about recruiting and retaining minority faculty, the University has not mentioned gay and lesbian faculty.

"If you are hiring a professor, you should be happy that they are a lesbian because their experience is very valuable at a university," Sharp said.

**Task force skepticism**

Brand said the Presidential Task Force on Gay and Lesbian Concerns, created by Paul Olum in June 1989, is addressing some of those issues, but Sharp said she has mixed feelings about the usefulness of this task force.

"My first impressions — and maybe it'll get better — are that it's almost set up to fail," she said. "For one thing, there's a straight white man facilitating it, and many of the people on the task force are faculty and staff who stand to lose a lot if they're radical."

Moreover, Sharp said task forces waste time talking instead of acting on things that need to be done, and she said Brand's 12 to 18 month planning period is inviting inefficiency.

"In terms of how much there is to do, I think there are basic things that are very obvious to implement right away," she said.

But Brand said he wanted to be careful to avoid rash mistakes. "Making a mistake can be highly counter-productive, and doing it right involves a great deal of input and time," he said.

"But if you make a mistake, it could be no worse than doing nothing," Sharp noted. "You could win by doing one thing, because nobody believes you're going to do anything."

This negative attitude is dangerous to have at the beginning of the planning process, Wong said. "If you really don't believe that something is going to work ... then you're right. It's not going to work," she said, adding that the new adminis-

trators should be given a chance to succeed. "With the positive energy, even if things have never worked in the past ... things can work now."

Wong encouraged students to voice their concerns to her or to Brand. "The only issues we know are important are the issues brought to his attention or to my attention," she said.


Although Mendoza said she understands why people are skeptical that Brand will become the affirmative action president, she said people should wait to decide if the story will or will not end happily ever after.

"Personally, I've been encouraged with what he's done so far," Mendoza said. "But it's really too early to tell how well Brand will actually do."

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