

BOARD DOCUMENT



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TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Pam Rollo, Liaison to Caucuses
DATE: 13 July 2006
RE: Name change for Gay and Lesbian Issues Caucus

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Directors change the name of the Gay and Lesbian Issues Caucus to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Issues Caucus.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT: The membership of this caucus, established in 1995, reflects the growing trend of diversity within the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community and would like the official name of the caucus to reflect that trend. The name change will foster increased membership and attendance at caucus events because the change reflects the desire of the caucus to include bisexual and transgendered individuals in the caucus.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The name change has been discussed at both the 2005 and 2006 annual meetings as well as on the caucus discussion list. At both meetings the issue was raised by members who felt that the current name was not as inclusive as possible. Currently, many Gay and Lesbian organizations in the United States are changing their names to reflect bisexual and transgendered involvement in those organizations. Making the caucus more welcoming to a diverse constituency is within the overall mission of SLA regarding SLA's desire to promote networking and advocacy for its members. 39 of the 88 members attended the 2006 annual business meeting and voted unanimously to change the name. The name change will send a message out to potential members that the caucus is especially open to including all sexual minorities.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT: A more inclusive name for the caucus will encourage more SLA members to officially join.

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