TLGC voted TCB member

In what appears to be a significant gain for homosexuals on campus, Tufts Center Board (TCB) unanimously voted to recognize the Tufts Lesbian and Gay Community (TLGC) on Monday night. TCB Vice-President Michael Natan said the recognition represents "one more straw in the hat" for TLGC which now will have a voting representative on TCB as well as TCB-sponsorship for TLGC events.

According to John Orcutt, TLGC's new TCB representative, this recognition is part of a larger effort by TLGC to increase campus awareness of the group. "We want to sponsor more events that aren't gay-oriented, work with other groups and show our dedication to the community as a whole," he said.

Orcutt said gay and lesbian organizations at other universities have active roles and said that until now such a role at Tufts "failed to a certain extent. It's important that the campus feel comfortable with TLGC," he said. Orcutt added, "it says something if a major group like TCB recognizes us."

Natan said that "in the long run, as they get integrated into the system, any stigma associated with TLGC will be broken down. They can now draw on the P.R. of TCB."

Natan also said that TLGC's request for recognition was met with "overwhelming support" by other

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TCB member groups. "At our meeting, Eric [Leibler-TCB President] said to everyone that you have to realize what recognition means, that the group should enhance the social, cultural or intellectual environment at Tufts and would sponsor events that people would go to. Then John presented what they've already done and we voted," he said. Natan added that "As long as they stick to those credentials then we will all benefit."

Unlike past years, TLGC "has a lot of young blood in the group this year," Orcutt said. "We're young and energetic and I'm willing to put in dedication to TCB."

Orcutt said that TLGC already has been asked to co-sponsor events with other TCB groups and that this has "helped relationships. We're getting the respect from the student body we deserve."