Gay and Lesbian Faculty Group Formed

by LAUREN KEEFE

Members of the faculty have met twice this semester to discuss the difficulties they face being homosexual at Tufts, according to Tufts Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Community Director Donna Penn.

Penn, who organized the meetings, said that they have served as an opportunity for the faculty members to get to know one another.

"We're in the initial stages of identifying what our mission is. We're helping people to deal with what it means to be gay and lesbian at Tufts," Penn said.

She explained that most people do not realize the far-reaching effects of homosexuality. As an example, she said that even the topic of how to react when flyers announcing the meeting were held had to be discussed.

Penn said that the group increased 30 percent in size from the first meeting to the second, and that she is hoping it will increase further. She said that a third meeting is scheduled to be held on December 8.

The group's main goal is to deal effectively with the issues affecting the gay and lesbian community, Penn said, adding that this would include putting pressure on the University when group members feel strongly on an issue.

Although still ironing out our plans and goals, we do hope to advance the concerns and issues relevant to gay and lesbian employees of the University," Penn said in a written statement.

In other TLGBC business, Penn said that the organization has begun working to publish a

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Journal next April to kick off Gay and Lesbian Awareness Month.

She said that the journal is intended to include a broad range of works, including poetry, fiction, essays and artwork.

"It will be people sharing their experiences about being gay, lesbian, or bisexual in society," Penn said.

She said that the organization is only planning to publish one issue. She said that it has sent letters to "various areas of the University" to raise money for printing costs, and that group members also intend to go before the Tufts Community Union Senate to seek buffer funding.