LGBTA Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 25, 2015
12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Room 134 (Senior Classroom B), Tinkham Veale University Center

AGENDA

I. Welcome New and Returning Members

II. Updates
   A. LGBT Center
   B. Health Care Access
   C. LGBTQ Research Group
   D. Q-Grad

III. Ongoing Business
   A. Prism Award
   B. Curricular Sub-Committee
   C. Lavender Graduation

IV. Announcements / New Business
LGBT Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 25, 2015  
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Attendance: Matthew Garrett, Jennifer Jackson, Lynn Singer, Shirley Mosley, Jane Daroff, AmariYah Israel, Elisabeth Roccoforte, Rebecca Schur, Gretchen Sullivan, G. Dean Patterson.

LGBT Center Update, Elisabeth Roccoforte, Director LGBT Center

AmariYah Israel, LGBT Center Coordinator, reported on Work it out, that was held on Tuesday, February 17th at the Tinkham Veale University Center. The event was a success and a great networking opportunity for students and professionals. There were about 30 attendees, half students both undergraduate and graduate, and half professionals. The six conversation groups have been going on throughout the semester, and there are approximately about six to twelve students attends each conversation group. The groups are Asexual, Guys Like Us, Girls Like Us, Relatable, Queer People of Color, and Gender Identity. A new conversation group is starting this semester, Bisexual and Queer Identities and Middle Sexualities, facilitated by AmariYah Israel.

International Day of Transgender Visibility is Tuesday, March 31st, 6:30pm, located at Ft. Huntington Park, Downtown Cleveland. The International Day of Transgender Visibility will be the first community event held in the City of Cleveland. The Nock Scholarship, the deadline is on April 11th and will be published in The Daily. The scholarship will be awarded at the Lavender Graduation on Monday, April 27, 2015. The Douglas Nock Endowment Scholarship is the first LGBT scholarship and is given to a student who has shown exceptional leadership in LGBT-related campus work. The scholarship is awarded towards to the tuition of the recipient. The applications are forwarded to Lynn Singer’s office and a small committee who determines the winner.

G. Dean Patterson, Associate Vice President, Student Affairs suggested a plaque for display in the LGBT Center with all past and present recipients of the Nock Scholarship Award.

Lavender Graduation is on Monday, April 27, 2015 at 6:00pm at the Alumni House. The invitations will go out on Friday, March 27th.

The LGBT Center is starting a Campus Transgender Task Force for students, faculty, and staff with the support of Lynn Singer. The task force is by invitation only LGBT Committee members are welcome to join the task force. There is one CWRU Alumni invited as well as a few community members who have been in contact with the LGBT Center. The task force will look at issues such as student health care coverage, gender inclusive housing, and bathrooms on campus. Diversity 360, a new campus-wide training initiative that will build on cross-cultural conversations, enhanced student engagement, and leadership development. Diversity 360 is expected to roll out during orientation for the next academic year. The Office of Multicultural Affairs and Student Affairs are working on training a group of facilitators to administer during orientation. There have been three pilots in the past three months Liz Roccoforte and AmariYah Israel have both agreed to be facilitators.

A flyer will distribute for the Safe Zone Open Session, dated for Friday, April 17th from 9:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-4:00pm.

Since 2010, Safe Zone has had over 700 attendees. There has been a discussion about redesigning Safe Zone 2.0 planned for the 2015-2016 Academic Year.

Liz received an email from a potential donor, Michael Morris from Louisiana, who is a collector of LGBT history archive of photographs, artwork, and memorabilia. Michael has a connection to CWRU to which, his grandfather was a faculty
member in the math department as well as a CWRU alum. At the time, his name is unknown. The potential donor is happy with all of the work the LGBT Center has done with the CWRU campus, and he would like his collection to be housed on campus.

**LGBTQ Research Group, Matthew Garrett, Faculty Co-Chair, LGBTA Committee**

The LGBTQ Research Group had two meetings, scheduled on the third Thursday of every month. Attendance has been steady, with participants representing community members from local hospitals, and faculty members-some of whom are not conducting LGBTQ research but would like to support the efforts of the committee. The first meeting contained more of dialog and conversation, and the second meeting begun with two mini-presentations. The goal is to meet again by the end of May and the possibility of June, and from an initial identity with primary goals and then move into opening the situation up for graduate students in the Fall. Amanda Shaffer, Director, Office of Faculty Development has been a great asset to the research group.

**Q-Grad Update, Rebecca Schur, Vice President of Q-Grad**

The Graduate Student Senate and Graduate Professional Council voted in favor of unification on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at a special GA meeting. The GSS and the GPC have been separate entities. The Research Symposium is scheduled for Thursday, April 23rd from noon to 4:00pm. So far, there have been eight submissions of abstracts for the symposium. The LGBT/Ally Mentorship Program Speed Mentoring Dinner had a great turn out, where approximately 20 students attended. There is a Mentor/Mentee Happy Hour on Wednesday, April 15th from 5:30pm-8:00pm at Michelson and Morley. Members of Q-Grad is trying to schedule a meeting with the Provost and Lou Stark, Vice President of Student Affairs to discuss strategically funding for Q-Grad events. Ideally, speaking with the Provost about providing additional funding for the LGBT Center for Q-Grad, however, there has been issues with receiving a response with scheduling a meeting with the Provost. The Q-Grad website is still in progress, but there is a housed space for Q-Grad on the LGBT Center website. [https://www.case.edu/lgbt/qgrad/](https://www.case.edu/lgbt/qgrad/) and [https://www.facebook.com/QGradCWRU](https://www.facebook.com/QGradCWRU)

**Ongoing Business, Matthew Garrett, Faculty Co-Chair, LGBTA Committee**

Committee members discussed two nominations for the Prism Award. A decision was made to present two awards this year; one current and one historical. The Alumni Association was selected for a current Prism Award for their many contributions to the LGBT Center. The historical contribution will go to a group of three individuals, David O’Malley, Dan Dowhower, and Kathryn Howard, who began the evolution of domestic partnership benefits on the CWRU campus in 1998. The Fringe Benefits Subcommittee consisted of David, Dan, and Kathryn who reported the Domestic Partner Benefits to the Staff Advisory Council on January 28, 1999, and the Faculty Senate endorsed and later passed, where the benefits were implemented in year 2000. The progress of the curricular sub-committee has stalled. We will continue to seek ways to get committee members involved with this important project.

**Announcements/New Business, Matthew Garrett, Faculty Co-Chair, LGBTA Committee**

Lynn Singer, Deputy Provost, and Vice President for Academic Programs, suggested a possible focus or discussion group asking CWRU LGBT faculty if they discuss issues they are encountering across the university. Changing the nature of an LGBTA Committee meeting and possible meet during one of the LGBTA Committee sponsored times. Evenings possible, like social events- an LGBTQA Faculty and Staff focus group to come and share questions and concerns, sponsored by the LGBTA Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.

Minutes by J. Jackson