LGBTQA Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 17, 2015
12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Room 140 (First Floor Conference Room), Tinkham Veale University Center


LGBT Center Update, Elisabeth Roccoforte, Director LGBT Center
Case Western Reserve University received a new campus pride index ranking – 4 out of 5 stars. The Campus Pride Index is a ranking system for universities based on LGBT-friendliness, primarily for students. CWRU is no longer 5 out of 5 stars for 2015. This year, the index was recreated with new questions and more difficult criteria. Ohio State University received the highest ranking, 4.5 out of 5 stars in the State of Ohio.

2015 Rankings at CWRU:
- Sexual Orientation: 4 out of 5 stars
- Gender Identity: 4 out of 5 stars
- LGBTQ Policy Inclusion: 4.5 out of 5 stars
- LGBTQ Support and Institutional Commitment: 5 out of 5 stars
- LGBTQ Academic Life: 2 out of 5 stars
- LGBTQ Student Life: 5 out of 5 stars
- LGBTQ Housing and Residence Life: 4 out of 5 stars
- LGBTQ Campus Safety: 5 out of 5 stars
- LGBTQ Counseling and Health: 4.5 out of 5 stars
- LGBTQ Recruitment and Retention Efforts: 4 out of 5 stars

The lowest score was academic life; most questions were based on categories of LGBTQ academic offerings and LBBTQ issues existing into courses offered. Another question mentioned new faculty and staff training opportunities offered in addition to Safe Zone training that are consistent on a regular basis that is approved by supervisors. Opportunities include additions to Safe Zone training and more courses being offered towards LGBTQ-based studies.

The LGBT Center worked with the Office of Admissions to add an optional question to the common application that allows undergraduates to include their sexual orientation and gender identity. Data has already been received from the undergraduate applicants for the next academic year.

The LGBT Center has been attending meetings with the departments of Residence Life, Housing, and Student Affairs to try and get future plans in place regarding gender-inclusive housing for the next academic year. There was good feedback from the students who are residing in the gender-inclusive suites in Cutler House, the first residence hall on campus to pilot the program. The plan for next year is to have a selection for gender-inclusive housing on the application available to all students and have an opportunity for an RA specifically for gender-inclusive housing.

LGBT Center Program Updates Fall 2015

1. Bisexual Visibility Day, Wednesday September 23, from 10:00am-4:00pm in front of Nord Hall, located on the Quad
2. Conversation groups
   a. New conversation group: Out & Greek
   b. Continuing: QTPOC, Women’s group, Men’s group, Gender Resistance, Umbrella Asexual group
3. National Coming Out Week of Events, October 11-16
   Sunday, October 11, National Coming Out Day
   • Spectrum Pancake Brunch
Sarah Andrews, Senior Instructor and Director of Social Work, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, asked if anyone has been receiving any complaints about the usage of pronouns from faculty, students, and staff. A professor has mentioned difficulty using gender neutral pronouns with students. There were some discussions about having more information available on the LGBT Center website providing education of gender neutral pronouns. Also, the possibility to have a pronoun campaign on campus with educators available to teach sessions on why pronouns are important. AmariYah Israel, Department Coordinator, LGBT Center provided a video on explaining the importance of gender neutral pronouns.

Q-Grad Update, Paul Cheng, President of Q-Grad
The Q-Grad kickoff happy hour for the Fall semester was on Thursday, September 10th, and Paul presented an attendance pie chart from the event (attachment). There was an estimated number of 80 attendees and 78 showed up, lower from the attendance from last year. The most number of attendees who showed up were from the Law School and the School of Medicine. One of the major plans for Q-Grad this year is to apply for an ACES fellowship through T. Kenny Fountain, Professor, Department of English and Marilyn Mobley, Vice President of Inclusion, Diversity and Equal Opportunity will is working on bringing a speaker to present on intersectionality. One student in the Weatherhead School of Management who from Delhi, studying for their Master of Business Administration is here on campus for a three-month residency. While he is here, he is planning to attend the Reaching Out MBA (ROMBA) conference in Chicago, Illinois. Q-Grad is trying to assist with this student by submitting a proposal and budget from Weatherhead for support to attend ROMBA.

Ongoing Business, Jane Daroff, Co-Chair, LGBTA Committee
We are still in need of committee volunteers to help with our curriculum project. We will discuss more information about the curriculum project at the next LGBTQA Committee meeting.

Announcements/New Business, Jane Daroff, Co-Chair, LGBTA Committee
LGBT Pride alumni dessert reception is on Saturday, October 10th from 7:00pm-9:00pm in the Tinkham Veale University Center. Gretchen Sullivan, Assistant Director, Student, Young Alumni and Affinity Programs, Alumni Association, is working on having a Safe Zone training in November for the Alumni Association. The 2016 Lavender Graduation is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2016, in Ballroom C, located in the Tinkham Veale University Center.