



Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer People, and Allies

Annual Report for 2014-2015

Philip Vasquez and Bernie Santarsiero, Co-Chairs

During the 2014-15 academic year, we focused on four thematic areas: (1) Diversity strategic plan for the UI Hospital Enterprise, Healthcare Equality, and Cultural Competency, (2) Gender Neutral Restrooms Mapping Project, (3) Transgender Inclusion, and (4) Funding and Scholarship.

1. UI Hospital Enterprise, Healthcare Equality, and Cultural Competency

On August 28, 2014, the Interim Vice President for Health Affairs (VPHA) approved the formation of the Diversity Leadership Council (DLC) and formally appointed members of the committee. The committee was co-chaired by Mary Jo Smith, Assistant Vice President, Hospital Human Resources, and Bernie Santarsiero. A formal report was submitted to the VPHA outlining a plan to create and implement a diversity strategic plan for the UI Hospital Enterprise in January 2015. In March, the VPHA approved the overall plan, and asked the committee to continue its efforts. The DLC plans to meet regularly starting in September, 2015.

2. Gender Neutral Restrooms Mapping Project

The Gender Neutral Restrooms mapping was completed on the east side of campus in 2014. We wished to extend the project to the west side of campus, and contacted each of the diversity offices in the Health Sciences Colleges for help. Both the College of Nursing and the College of Pharmacy complied. We also discovered that Facilities Management was conducting their own survey, scheduled to be completed in early 2015, and look forward to their report. At that stage, we can evaluate if there is a need to create more gender neutral restrooms, and make recommendations to the Administration. New single stall, gender neutral restrooms would serve the LGBTQ community, women as additional lactation rooms, and disabled individuals.

3. Transgender Inclusion

The committee felt that, at present, the greatest need for concern centered on transgender individuals, mainly students, and sought greater interaction with the trans* community. We met with several transgender students at a dinner, and with the Gender Umbrella Society (GUS), to hear their concerns, voice our support, and ask for their greater involvement with the committee. A number of areas need to be addressed: (1) preferred pronouns and preferred name recognition as a campus-wide policy, broadly promoted by the Chancellor, Provost, and College Deans, (2) expansion of the number of gender neutral restrooms on campus, (3) greater representation of transgender individuals on the Chancellor's Committee, and creation of a Peer Advocacy program to help transgender students, faculty, and staff navigate healthcare resources and options. We also wish to redirect the Lavender Research Forum with a focus on transgender issues.



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4. Funding and Scholarship

The committee provided support and sponsorship for several programs and events:

John D’Emilio Symposium	September 11, 2014
Hate Crime Summit	October 20, 2014
GSC 20/20 Exhibition	November 13, 2014
Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference	February 13-14, 2015
“Archival Impulse: An Exhibition of UIC Artists”	
MUSE Graduate Student Capstone Project	March/April 2015
Autistic Behavior: Neurodiversity and the Neuroqueer Movement	April 9, 2015
Minority Health Conference	April 9, 2015
Lavender Graduation	April 29, 2015
Peer health Advocate Training	May, 2015
Idapalooza Conference	June 10-15, 2015

The committee also considered many other issues during the past year. These included (1) greater support for homeless and veteran students, especially those who have little social support outside of the campus community because they are LGBTQ, (2) the implementation of more interaction with UIC and other Chicago area LGBTQ college alumni, both as a mechanism for student networking and as an effort to garner greater financial support for student scholarships and LGBTQ programs and events, and (3) the creation of an academic working group to discuss LGBTQ issues, policies, and advocacy, to promote grant proposals for federal, state, city, and foundation support.

Appointed Members

Bernard Santarsiero	Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy
Philip Vasquez	Student Development Services
Megan Carney	Gender and Sexuality Center
Alan Dettlaff	College of Social Work
Nikki Floyd	School of Public Health
Francesca Gaiba	Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy
Eric Hartman	College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts
Isabella Mancini	Student
Mark Manderino	Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Alicia Phoenix Matthews	Health Systems Science
Chloe Gurin-Sands	Student
Laura Stempel	Office of the Vice Provost for Planning and Programs
Kurt Stevens	Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Steven Whitley	Office of the Vice Provost for Planning and Programs