



## ACADEMIC SENATE OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

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### COMMITTEE ON LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, INTERSEX, QUEER + CAMPUS CLIMATE (CLGBTIQ+CC)

#### Annual Report AY 2020-21

**Prepared by:** Joshua Palkki, Chair

**Members:** Caleb Aparcio (ASI), Shae Miller (CLA), Brittany Ransom (COTA), Stacy Macias (CLA), Joshua Palkki (COTA), George Martinez (UL), Sara Gershwin-Razo (CHHS), Patricia Loughrey (CLA), Nancy De Haro (CED), Pedro Castro (COTA), Nicole Torres (CLA), Clarice Ross (COE), Anna Nazarian-Peters (SLD)

**Ex-Officio:** Keith Freeseaman (University Ombuds); Charlotte Waldo (Office of Equity and Diversity)

**Officers:** Joshua Palkki, Chair; Shae Miller, Vice-Chair; Nancy De Haro, Secretary

#### Committee Actions

##### 1. Campus Pride Index

The committee continued to work on updating the CSULB profile on the Campus Pride Index website. Before this school year, our profile had not been updated since ~2015.

According to their website:

*Since 2007, the Campus Pride Index has been the premier LGBTQ national benchmarking tool for colleges and universities to create safer, more inclusive campus communities. The free online tool allows prospective students, families/parents and those interested in higher education to search a database of LGBTQ-friendly campuses who have come out to improve the academic experience and quality of campus life.*

The staff in the Office of Equity and Diversity took the lead on collecting the most up-to-date information on campus to update our profile. We updated our data through their system. The good news is that our score raised from 4 to 4.5 out of 5. Charlotte Waldo in the Office of Equity and Diversity has updated the data for the Campus Pride Sports Index and will be submitting these data before the end of the Spring 2021 semester. We are hoping to raise our score (currently 2.5/5). Campus Pride Index began charging a fee last year which the Provost graciously agreed to pay—both the first year and the renewal in May 2021.

##### 2. CSULB LGBTQIA+ Website

We continued to make progress on a website resource for queer and trans students on campus. Committee members George Martinez and Nicole Torres graciously agreed to take the lead on this project. They worked to get webspace through the College of Liberal Arts, cultivated content, and worked on an organizational structure for the site. At this point, the site is now active and is meant to be a repository for all things LGBTQIA+ on campus. This is a major accomplishment resulting from two years of work.

<https://cla.csulb.edu/lgbtiq>  
[LGBTIQ-campus-climate@csulb.edu](mailto:LGBTIQ-campus-climate@csulb.edu)

### 3. **HERI Survey Analysis and Write-Up (Campus Climate Survey)**

As our liaison to the larger Campus Climate Committee, Dr. Miller has been working on interpreting LGBTQIA+-related data from Higher Educational Research Institute (HERI) survey that was administered during the 2019-20 academic year. Shae, Joshua, and Stacy are working on drafting the section of the Campus Climate Report that addresses queer and trans issues.

### 4. **Committee communication and Campus collaborations**

- **LGBTQIA+ Symposium for Week of RSCA.** In April 2021, CSULB hosted Week of RSCA—a national event featuring Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity (RSCA) at the university. Our committee sponsored a 90-minute session called *Playwrights, Trans Rights, and LGBTQ Fights for Justice: Engaging LGBTQIA Scholarship* which featured presentations by committee members Patricia Loughrey and Shae Miller and a panel discussion that included committee members Stacy Macias and Joshua Palkki.
- **LGBTQIA+ Cultural Welcomes.** Joshua served on the planning committee for the LGBTQIA+ Cultural Welcome for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. These were well attended events that virtually welcomed new queer and trans students to campus.
- **Committee Social Media Presence.** We started a Social Media Subcommittee headed by Pedro Castro who has been working to start social media accounts for the committee to disseminate information about our work.
- **Guidance for Athletics.** Dr. Miller has been working throughout the 2020-21 academic year to give guidance to athletics to be more inclusive of the queer and communities.
- **Lavender Graduation.** Joshua has served on the planning committee for the 2021 Lavender Graduation and participated by reading names in the ceremony.
- We continued to utilize **BeachBoard** to communicate and as a repository for information and to collaborate with one another. This page now contains up-to-date resources for students, faculty, and staff, as well as documentation of our work throughout the year.
- The committee supported **queer/trans programming sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs**, including their efforts during OUTober 2020 and the OUTlist for the 2020-21 year.
- We were asked by Cara Surkin, Assistant Director for Housing and Residential Life, for input on creating a **LGBT+ thematic community**.

- **Safe Zone.** Dr. Miller was in touch with the head of the campus Safe Zone training who has agreed to streamline websites (so that the Safe Zone and new website listed above match) and collaborate on future trainings.

**5. Application to be an official campus affinity group**

The President's Equity & Change Commission (PECC) now has a formal process for groups to have an officially recognized LGBTQIA+ affinity group. Dr. Miller headed up the effort to fill out and submit that paperwork.

**6. Ongoing support for queer and trans students during the COVID-19 pandemic**

During this period of “alternate instruction” due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our committee has sought to protect the safety and health of our queer and trans students. We have interfaced with the Campus Health Center and Residence Life to ensure that LGBTQIA+ students have safe spaces to reside and receive healthcare during this tenuous time.

**Recommendations for the AY 2021-22 Committee on LGBTIQ+CC**

1. Work to change the name of the committee to “COMMITTEE ON LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, INTERSEX, A(SEXUAL, GENDER, ROMANTIC)+ CAMPUS CLIMATE (CLGBTIQ+CC)” to match the standard, and widely-used, acronym LGBTQIA+.
  2. Continue to promote inclusive campus policies such as the ability for students to add their pronouns in PeopleSoft. The website and social media accounts should help with this.
  3. Launch and continue to develop a website for LGBTQIA+ students on campus—a central repository for information. This website could include a repository and/or virtual meeting space for faculty and staff engaged in LGBTQIA+-related research. This could result in cross-curricular grant writing and/or research opportunities.
  4. Advocate for a board made up of one representative from all gender- and sexuality-affiliated committees and groups on campus (e.g., this committee, WGEC, the LGBTQIA+ student resource center, the affinity group forming, TAC, Safe Zone.) to share strategies, best practices, and to coordinate campus efforts about LGBTQIA+-related trainings on campus.
  5. Work to explore and improve policy language in all campus programs, specifically as they pertain to gender inclusivity. Elements to explore include, but are not limited to, documents/policies/handbooks from: academic departments, colleges, athletics, ASI, Campus Health, CAPS, Risk Management, Student Affairs, Faculty Affairs, Academic Affairs, and Residence Life.
  6. Advocate for more all gender restrooms on campus and continually monitor progress on publicizing their location.
  7. Look at the interpretation of the HERI data and work for change based on these data.
  8. Continue to monitor campus events/policies that could affect queer and trans students as we repopulate the CSULB campus.
  9. Work with campus partners to update trainings, workshops, and resources aimed at promoting LGBTIQ+ inclusion and awareness on campus.
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