

1 **RESOLUTION 2021-006**

2 **A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A CAMPUS LGBTQ+ CENTER**

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4 Bohnert.14; Ashley Glass.268
5 Sponsor: Executive Committee
6

7 WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students (CGS) is the representative body of all graduate students enrolled at The
8 Ohio State University as established by Article 2, Section 1 of the CGS Constitution; and
9

10 WHEREAS, the Council is vested with the authority to voice graduate student concerns and needs to the university; and
11

12 WHEREAS, The Ohio State University's fundamental values and goals embrace the nurturing and growth of every
13 student¹; and
14

15 WHEREAS, The Ohio State University is the only school in the Big Ten to not have an LGBTQ+ Center on their
16 campus²; and
17

18 WHEREAS, most recently, Northwestern University created an LGBTQ+ center in 2004, after numerous negotiations
19 between students and administration, giving students who identify as LGBTQ+ a space to be supported³; and
20

21 WHEREAS, according to the research report, *Exploring Wellbeing to Support Success of LGBTQ and Questioning*
22 *Students at The Ohio State University*, from the College of Social Work, Multicultural Center, and the Office of Diversity
23 and Inclusion, it is recommended that The Ohio State University not only increase resources for LGBTQ+ students, but
24 also have a specific LGBTQ+ facility that is not housed in the multicultural center⁴; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the 2018-2019 Wellness Assessment of undergraduate and graduate student wellness from the Center for the
27 Study of Student Life found that LGBTQ+ students scored significantly lower than straight students in career, emotional,
28 financial, physical, social, and spiritual wellness⁵; and
29

30 WHEREAS, the 2018-2019 Wellness Assessment of undergraduate and graduate student wellness also found that
31 LGBTQ+ students had significantly lower scores in present career wellness, which was defined as the positivity, stress,
32 and balance in their current work environment⁵; and
33

34 WHEREAS, all LGBTQ+ efforts are currently being housed in the Multicultural Center, and they have one full-time staff
35 member to specifically focus on needs of all LGBTQ+ students on OSU's campus⁶, and this position is not currently
36 filled; and
37

38 WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ resources are broadly housed in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion⁷, Counseling and
39 Consultation Services⁸, the Kirwan Institute on Race and Ethnicity⁹, and various other offices; and
40

41 WHEREAS, according to the Campus Climate on Diversity report in 2019, LGBTQ+ students reported a significantly
42 lower sense of belonging at Ohio State compared to their heterosexual peers¹⁰; and

¹ <https://oaa.osu.edu/mission-vision-values-and-core-goals>

² Appendix A

³ <https://dailynorthwestern.com/2004/01/07/archive-manual/lgbt-center-opens-its-doors-to-students/>

⁴ <https://csw.osu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/OSU-LGBTQQ-Study-Report-for-Release.pdf>

⁵ Wellness Assessment 2018-2019: Wellness of Students Based on Sexual Orientation. Center for the Study of Student Life, The Ohio State University Office of Student Life. March 2019.

⁶ <https://mcc.osu.edu/about-us/our-team>

⁷ <https://odi.osu.edu/lgbtq-resources>

⁸ <https://ccs.osu.edu/outreach/celebrating-diversity/lgbtq>

⁹ <https://womensplace.osu.edu/resources/lgbtq-staff-faculty-resources>

¹⁰ <https://cssl.osu.edu/posts/632320bc-704d-4eef-8bcb-87c83019f2e9/documents/campus-climate-on-diversity-msl-trends-final-accessible.pdf>

43
44 WHEREAS, according to the 2020 LGBTQ+ Campus Climate Report, 58.85% of LGBTQ+ undergraduate, graduate, and
45 professional student respondents said it was “extremely” or “very” important to them to have an LGBTQ+ Center on
46 campus¹¹; and
47
48 WHEREAS, of LGBTQ+ respondents, 90.25% agreed that having an LGBTQ+ Center on campus would make them feel
49 more supported on campus¹¹; and
50
51 WHEREAS, of LGBTQ+ respondents, 79.92% agreed than having an LGBTQ+ Center on campus would make them feel
52 safer at OSU¹¹; and
53
54 WHEREAS, in 2018, 10% of LGBTQ+ students at Ohio State described the campus as hostile and negative, compared to
55 4% in 2015¹⁰; and
56
57 WHEREAS survey results over three years indicated that LGBTQ+ students experience higher amounts of discrimination
58 while attending Ohio State compared to heterosexual students¹⁰; and
59
60 WHEREAS, higher education is typically a place that supports positive identity development¹²; and
61
62 WHEREAS, literature supports a positive value in postsecondary curriculum, role models, and building community in
63 helping students with LGBTQ+ identity development¹²; and
64
65 WHEREAS, literature also supports that having an LGBTQ+ center helps to increase inclusion and positive campus
66 climate when it comes to discrimination against LGBTQ+ students¹²; and
67
68 WHEREAS, the creation of an LGBTQ+ center would allow for resources to be consolidated and for more staff to be
69 hired to focus specifically on the needs of LGBTQ+ students on campus in the form of resources, programs, and events;
70 and
71
72 WHEREAS, having an LGBTQ+ Center at Ohio State would allow for more focus to be dedicated to the specific needs of
73 queer Black, Indigenous, and people of color, graduate/professional, regional campus, and transfer students and
74 transgender students; and
75
76 WHEREAS, both USG and IPC have written similar resolutions in support of an LGBTQ+ Center, and CGS is in full
77 support of these bodies and agrees such a center is necessary for student support.
78
79 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of Graduate Students officially recommends that The Ohio State
80 University create a campus LGBTQ+ Center on central campus; and
81
82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of Graduate Students recognizes the importance of creating a space for
83 LGBTQ+ students that provides support and resources to all students on campus; and
84
85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of Graduate Students is committed to fostering an inclusive campus
86 community for LGBTQ+ students and finds that having an LGBTQ+ Center would create an environment of increased
87 acceptance and strengthen the entire campus community; and
88
89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of Graduate Students recommends that The Ohio State University
90 introduce additional measures to support LGBTQ+ students on all of its campuses; and
91

¹¹ <https://osu.app.box.com/s/ihj5f8yby54zj8v2mafswls1dk57ri8h>

¹² <https://www.higheredtoday.org/2017/04/10/lgbtq-students-higher-education/?print=pdf>

92 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students directs its President and Vice President to distribute
93 this resolution to The Ohio State University President Kristina M. Johnson, Executive Vice President and Provost Bruce
94 McPheron, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School Alicia Bertone, Vice President for
95 Student Life Melissa Shivers Calhoun, Vice President for Government Affairs Stacy Rastaukas, and the Chair of the
96 Council on Student Affairs Jordan Vadjia, and all other relevant leadership and authorities of The Ohio State University
97 and its partners.

98
99

100 Approved: Yes/No

101

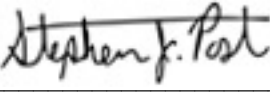
102 Date: __11/06/20__

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Stephen J. Post, President



Council of Graduate Students
at The Ohio State University

Appendix A

School	Center Name	Location	Website
Indiana University	LGBTQ+ Culture Center	House near student union	https://lgbtq.indiana.edu/index.html
Michigan State University	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Resource Center	Area inside student services building	https://lbgtrc.msu.edu/
Northwestern University	Gender and Sexuality Resource Center	Area inside student union	https://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/lgbt/
Pennsylvania State University	Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity	Area inside student union	https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/csgd
Purdue University	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender, and Queer Center	Area inside student services building	https://www.purdue.edu/lgbtq/
Rutgers University	The Center for Social Justice Education and LGBT Communities	House near student union	http://socialjustice.rutgers.edu/
University of Illinois	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Resource Center	Area inside student union	https://oiir.illinois.edu/lgbt-resource-center
University of Iowa	Pride Alliance Center	House about 1 mile away from student union	https://multicultural.uiowa.edu/culturalcenters/pridehouse/
University of Maryland	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Equity Center	Area inside campus building	https://lgbt.umd.edu/
University of Michigan	Spectrum Center	Area inside student union	https://spectrumcenter.umich.edu/
University of Minnesota	Gender and Sexuality Center for Queer and Trans Life	Area inside campus building	https://gsc.umn.edu/
University of Nebraska	LGBTQA+ Center	Area inside student union	https://lgbtqa.unl.edu/welcome?fbclid=IwAR3sya9Pe8_VYQg6-nwyKe5bXI840c-Gs_1MH97OCgTj5-H_tnkt8OJFXAA
University of Wisconsin	Gender and Sexuality Campus Center	Area inside campus building	https://lgbt.wisc.edu/
The Ohio State University	N/A	N/A	N/A



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