RESOLUTION 2021-006
A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A CAMPUS LGBTQ+ CENTER

Authors: Abigail Grieff.2, Chair, Health, Wellness, and Safety; Michelle Scott.1445, Chair, Graduate Student Affairs; Eli Bohnert.14; Ashley Glass.268
Sponsor: Executive Committee

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

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

WHEREAS, The Ohio State University’s fundamental values and goals embrace the nurturing and growth of every student1; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the 2018-2019 Wellness Assessment of undergraduate student wellness also found that LGBTQ+ students had significantly lower scores in present career wellness, which was defined as the positivity, stress, and balance in their current work environment6; and

WHEREAS, all LGBTQ+ efforts are currently being housed in the Multicultural Center, and they have one full-time staff member to specifically focus on needs of all LGBTQ+ students on OSU’s campus7, and this position is not currently filled; and

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

WHEREAS, according to the Campus Climate on Diversity report in 2019, LGBTQ+ students reported a significantly 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
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
WHEREAS, according to the 2020 LGBTQ+ Campus Climate Report, 58.85% of LGBTQ+ undergraduate, graduate, and professional student respondents said it was “extremely” or “very” important to them to have an LGBTQ+ Center on campus\textsuperscript{11}; and

WHEREAS, of LGBTQ+ respondents, 90.25% agreed that having an LGBTQ+ Center on campus would make them feel more supported on campus\textsuperscript{11}; and

WHEREAS, of LGBTQ+ respondents, 79.92% agreed that having an LGBTQ+ Center on campus would make them feel safer at OSU\textsuperscript{11}; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, 10% of LGBTQ+ students at Ohio State described the campus as hostile and negative, compared to 4% in 2015\textsuperscript{10}; and

WHEREAS survey results over three years indicated that LGBTQ+ students experience higher amounts of discrimination while attending Ohio State compared to heterosexual students\textsuperscript{10}; and

WHEREAS, higher education is typically a place that supports positive identity development\textsuperscript{12}; and

WHEREAS, literature supports a positive value in postsecondary curriculum, role models, and building community in helping students with LGBTQ+ identity development\textsuperscript{12}; and

WHEREAS, literature also supports that having an LGBTQ+ center helps to increase inclusion and positive campus climate when it comes to discrimination against LGBTQ+ students\textsuperscript{12}; and

WHEREAS, the creation of an LGBTQ+ center would allow for resources to be consolidated and for more staff to be hired to focus specifically on the needs of LGBTQ+ students on campus in the form of resources, programs, and events; and

WHEREAS, having an LGBTQ+ Center at Ohio State would allow for more focus to be dedicated to the specific needs of queer Black, Indigenous, and people of color, graduate/professional, regional campus, and transfer students and transgender students; and

WHEREAS, both USG and IPC have written similar resolutions in support of an LGBTQ+ Center, and CGS is in full support of these bodies and agrees such a center is necessary for student support.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of Graduate Students officially recommends that The Ohio State University create a campus LGBTQ+ Center on central campus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of Graduate Students recognizes the importance of creating a space for LGBTQ+ students that provides support and resources to all students on campus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of Graduate Students is committed to fostering an inclusive campus community for LGBTQ+ students and finds that having an LGBTQ+ Center would create an environment of increased acceptance and strengthen the entire campus community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of Graduate Students recommends that The Ohio State University introduce additional measures to support LGBTQ+ students on all of its campuses; and

\textsuperscript{11} https://osu.app.box.com/s/ihij5f8yby54zj8v2maf5wls1dk57ri8h

\textsuperscript{12} https://www.higheredtoday.org/2017/04/10/lgbtq-students-higher-education/?print=pdf
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students directs its President and Vice President to distribute this resolution to The Ohio State University President Kristina M. Johnson, Executive Vice President and Provost Bruce McPherson, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School Alicia Bertone, Vice President for Student Life Melissa Shivers Calhoun, Vice President for Government Affairs Stacy Rastaukas, and the Chair of the Council on Student Affairs Jordan Vadja, and all other relevant leadership and authorities of The Ohio State University and its partners.

Approved: Yes/No

Date: __11/06/20____

Stephen J. Post, President
## Appendix A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Center Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indiana University</td>
<td>LGBTQ+ Culture Center</td>
<td>House near student union</td>
<td><a href="https://lgbtq.indiana.edu/index.html">https://lgbtq.indiana.edu/index.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan State University</td>
<td>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Resource Center</td>
<td>Area inside student services building</td>
<td><a href="https://lbsgtrc.msu.edu/">https://lbsgtrc.msu.edu/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwestern University</td>
<td>Gender and Sexuality Resource Center</td>
<td>Area inside student union</td>
<td><a href="https://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/lgbt/">https://www.northwestern.edu/norris/services/lgbt/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania State University</td>
<td>Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity</td>
<td>Area inside student union</td>
<td><a href="https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/csgd">https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/csgd</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purdue University</td>
<td>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender, and Queer Center</td>
<td>Area inside student services building</td>
<td><a href="https://www.purdue.edu/lgbtq/">https://www.purdue.edu/lgbtq/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutgers University</td>
<td>The Center for Social Justice Education and LGBT Communities</td>
<td>House near student union</td>
<td><a href="http://socialjustice.rutgers.edu/">http://socialjustice.rutgers.edu/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Illinois</td>
<td>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Resource Center</td>
<td>Area inside student union</td>
<td><a href="https://oir.illinois.edu/lgbt-resource-center">https://oir.illinois.edu/lgbt-resource-center</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Iowa</td>
<td>Pride Alliance Center</td>
<td>House about 1 mile away from student union</td>
<td><a href="https://multicultural.uiowa.edu/culturalcenters/pridehouse/">https://multicultural.uiowa.edu/culturalcenters/pridehouse/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Maryland</td>
<td>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Equity Center</td>
<td>Area inside campus building</td>
<td><a href="https://lgbt.umd.edu/">https://lgbt.umd.edu/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Michigan</td>
<td>Spectrum Center</td>
<td>Area inside student union</td>
<td><a href="https://spectrumcenter.umich.edu/">https://spectrumcenter.umich.edu/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Minnesota</td>
<td>Gender and Sexuality Center for Queer and Trans Life</td>
<td>Area inside campus building</td>
<td><a href="https://gsc.umn.edu/">https://gsc.umn.edu/</a></td>
</tr>
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<td>University of Nebraska</td>
<td>LGBTQQA+ Center</td>
<td>Area inside student union</td>
<td><a href="https://lgbtqa.unl.edu/welcome/?fbclid=IwAR3xya9Pe8_VYYq6-nwyKz5bX1840c-Gs_iM897OCgt5-H_inkt8OJXAA">https://lgbtqa.unl.edu/welcome/?fbclid=IwAR3xya9Pe8_VYYq6-nwyKz5bX1840c-Gs_iM897OCgt5-H_inkt8OJXAA</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Wisconsin</td>
<td>Gender and Sexuality Campus Center</td>
<td>Area inside campus building</td>
<td><a href="https://lgbt.wisc.edu/">https://lgbt.wisc.edu/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ohio State University</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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Council of Graduate Students at The Ohio State University