

Academic Senate of California State University, Long Beach  
**Committee for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Campus Climate**

Annual Report

**Year:** 2013-2014

**Name of Committee:** Committee on LGBTQ Campus Climate

**Prepared by:** Neil Hultgren, CLGBTQCC Interim Chair

**Date:** May 2014

**Membership:** Brown, Christopher (UP); Carbuto, Michael (SS); Carter, Ashley (CNSM); Cruz, Sharon (CHHS); Estrada, Gabriel (CLA); Hagans, Kristi (CED); Levy, Dori (COTA); Mathers, Jessica (LAC); Nazarian-Peters, Anna (SLD); Perdue, Mary Beth (SLD); Perrone, Dina (CHHS); Selders, DJ (ASI); Sumpter, Kirsten (COTA); Tolbert, Tracy (CHHS); Vaca, Andrew (COTA)

**Ex-Officio Membership:** Decyk, Betsy (University Ombuds); Hamada, Larisa (Director, Equity and Diversity)

**Membership Resignation:** Mathers, Jessica (left university); Selders, DJ (term with ASI ended); Decyk, Betsy (completed time as University Ombuds)

**Membership Replacement:** Cholakian, Shannon (ASI, replaced Selders in spring 2014); Clark, Kate (SS, replaced Mathers in spring 2014); Freeseemann, Keith (University Ombuds, replaced Decyk in spring 2014); Hultgren, Neil (CLA, replaced Estrada during Estrada's spring 2014 sabbatical)

**Officers:** Gabriel Estrada, Chair (F13); Neil Hultgren, Chair (S14); Kristi Hagans, Vice-Chair; Kirsten Sumpter, Recorder; Jessica Mathers, Membership Coordinator

**Actions taken by the Committee:**

1) Periodic Needs Assessment of LGBTQ Campus Climate—Campus Pride Index: Through the work of Larisa Hamada and Dina Perrone, the committee gathered data regarding the LGBTQ campus climate from multiple university offices and entered this information into the Campus Pride Survey (the LGBT-Friendly Campus Climate Index: <http://www.campusprideindex.org>). After the entry of this data, CSULB's score improved from 2.5 to 4.0 out of 5. With the help of the CSULB community, CSULB's score now reflects the current (as of January 2014) CSULB LGBT-Friendly Campus Climate Index. Through updating the Pride Index, our committee was able to identify areas where CSULB has succeeded and areas that need improvement. In particular, CSULB now has

- a) a Queer Studies Minor,
- b) Gender-Neutral (GN) Bathrooms that are marked with their locations available to the campus community,
- c) a Safe Zone-trained CSULB Campus Safety staff, and
- d) GN Housing that is available for Fall 2014.

Neil Hultgren and Dina Perrone met with Rick Gloady in the CSULB Office of Media Relations, and Mr. Gloady drafted a press release about these developments. See the action items below for areas from the Campus Climate Index that need improvement.

2) Initiated Conversations with LGBTQ Alumni via CSULB Alumni Relations: Through the work of Dori Levy, the committee is in communication with Alumni Relations Director, Sally Schliesmayer. The plan is to search out LGBTQIA graduates and request their input on campus climate matters and resolutions. Also, two former CSULB GLSU (Gay and Lesbian Student Union from the late 1980s and early 1990s) student members, Deems Morrione and Sergio Macias, are willing to contribute information and advice.

3) Convened Subcommittee on LGTBQ Administration: The committee convened a Subcommittee on LGTBQ Administration with the following members: Michael Carbutto, Kirstyn Chun, Kristi Hagans, Neil Hultgren, and Andy Vaca. The subcommittee began initial conversations to consider ways that CSULB might obtain and fund a full-time LGBT Resource Center Coordinator position on campus. The subcommittee continues to obtain information about coordinators at other institutions and about CSULB's current resources. The subcommittee's action plan for next year includes a) beginning to draft a proposal for a full-time director (or drafting part of this proposal), b) inviting the current student coordinator to a meeting and requesting a written testimonial about her experiences running the RC, and c) continuing fact-finding about other centers at CSUs and other universities in the area.

**Internal Proceedings / Discussion Occurred:** 1) Focused discussion on different parts of the CLGBTQCC charge. 2) Discussion of the state of current available data regarding LGBTQ-identified students on campus. 3) Sharing information and brainstorming about campus programs and events, most notably Safe Zone and Safety Week.

**Presentation / Reports Received:** 1) Presentation on Title IX from Larisa Hamada at November 2013 meeting. 2) Presentation on Student Health Status Survey from Heidi Burkey at May 2014 meeting.

**Official Recommendations to the Campus Climate Committee and Academic Senate:** None

#### **Action Items for Next Year:**

The Campus Pride Index suggested that CSULB could improve in

- a) the retention and recruitment of LGBTQ faculty, staff, and students by actively recruiting and tracking LGBTQ individuals at CSULB,
- b) student life by hiring a full-time, credentialed staff person to manage the Resource Center,
- c) transgender pride by offering GN bathrooms in academic buildings and implementing a preferred first name change process for university records and documents, and
- d) campus safety by formulating a bias response team.

As a committee, our action items include

- a) Gather data about incoming students and continue to find ways to gather this data.
- b) Continue the meetings of the Subcommittee on LGBTQ Administration with the focus on putting together a proposal for a full-time LGBT Resource Center Coordinator.
- c) Implement plans to forge partnerships with other cultural groups and organizations. Gather a list of campus leaders, inform groups about our committee, and invite leaders to our meetings or other events.
- d) Continue our discussions with LGBT Alumni and develop ways to reach out to alumni and communicate with them.
- e) Work on the areas for improvement suggested by the Campus Pride Index.