



STUDENT SENATE
2014-15 Academic Year

*A resolution encouraging Wayne State University to
establish permanent, centrally-located LGBTQA Resource Centers.*

Presented on 8/7/2014

Adopted on 9/18/2014

Sponsor: William Alexander & Naomi Shangle

Co-sponsors:

WHEREAS, Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, and ally (LGBTQA) college students face innumerable challenges both on and off campus as a result of their identities, including but not limited to verbal, physical, and sexual harassment, loss of interpersonal support systems, loss of employment, etc., that can negatively impact their physical and mental health, and academic success; **AND**

WHEREAS, Ronni Sanlo, Professor of Higher Education at California State University, described a variety of serious problems facing these students, stating that “students who worry about an unsupportive environment and harassment are unable to focus on either academic or co-curricular learning.”¹; **AND**

WHEREAS, The greatest danger to LGBTQA populations on university campuses is a climate of real or perceived fear, prejudice, and ignorance that their invisibility – that is, the fact that on first meeting, most people automatically presume that they are not LGBTQA-identified – inevitably cultivates; **AND**

WHEREAS, The resulting climate leaves many LGBTQA individuals feeling isolated, at risk, or alienated from their peers and instructors; **AND**

WHEREAS, The invisibility of the LGBTQA population on campuses, as well as the compounded effects of distraction from academic success can be mitigated by the establishment of centrally-located LGBTQA Resource Centers. Such Centers will enable universities to address the following needs and concerns:

- Creation of crucial safe spaces for all LGBTQA students, staff, faculty, and community members
- Development of more advanced initiatives, such as academic programs, bias-crime reporting, web-based resources, peer support and counseling

¹ Sanlo, Ronni. "Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual College Students: Risk, Resiliency, and Retention." <<http://www.aacu.org/meetings/pdfs/DL04Sanlo.pdf>>.



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groups, community outreach programs, and LGBTQA-based Admissions programs

- Continuous on-campus support for LGBTQA students, and LGBTQA and related student organizations; **AND**

WHEREAS, These needs and concerns can only be met by Centers specifically targeted to handle LGBTQA matters, as opposed to the utilization of multipurpose / multifunction (e.g., Multicultural, Inclusion, Cross-Cultural, etc.) centers; **AND**

WHEREAS, While campus diversity and inclusion initiatives are related, various center missions are unique, and their separateness strengthens their individual missions. The very aim of such LGBTQA Resource Centers is not to divide, but rather to institutionalize a climate of respect, dignity, and inclusion from a position of visibility within the broader community; **AND**

WHEREAS, The mere presence of visible, independent LGBTQA Resource Centers is essential to begin to address the stigmatized LGBTQA identities and fears held regarding LGBTQA issues;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Assembly of the Wayne State University Student Senate highly encourages Wayne State University to establish permanent, centrally-located LGBTQA Resource Centers;

AND FINALLY BE IT ORDERED, the Wayne State University Student Senate will circulate this resolution to all relevant outlets, including the University President, University Vice Presidents, and University administration/officials.

Naomi Shangle
President

Rohit Anand
Vice President