

## Women's Faculty Council General Meeting—Minutes

April 8, 2020 @ 2:30, Virtual Event (Zoom)

### Attending:

#### Officers

**Kim Loeffert**, Chair

**Tracy Quan**, Vice Chair

**Madison Chartier**, Secretary

**Erin Dyke**, Treasurer

**Steph Link**, Immediate Past Chair

**Awilda Rodriguez Carrion**, Faculty Council Liaison

#### Members:

*Libby Adjei*

*Summer Graham*

*JBlock*

*Alek*

*Kara PARsons*

*Kathleen Curtis*

*Sarah Donovan*

*Kimberly Bowen*

*Tika Johnson*

*Cynwash*

*iPad*

*Lexi*

*Norb Delatte*

*Diana Romano*

*Jarrold L. M. Noftsger*

*Holly*

*Isabel Alvarez-Sancho*

*Mary Larson*

*Sarah Milligan*

*Emma Schlebach*

*Joyce Crawford*

*Carol Roades*

*Thomas Dickey*

*Tyler Murray*

*Charles Norris*

*Craig Edwards*

*Emily Elliott*

*Adam Moore*

*K Gallus*

*Edmond Bonjour*

*Joseph Anthony*

*Nick Gordon*

*Ozgur Capraz*

*Precious Elmore-Sanders*

*Randolph Hubach*

*Rochelle (OK)*

*Stephanie Miller*

*Kathy Essmiller*

*Rey Marrufo*

*Sue C Jacobs*

*Thomas Dickey*

*Tiffany Johnson*

*JCB*

*Greg Clare*

*Cole Woods*

*Daniel Clay-Buck*

*Douglas Knutson*

*Hannah Bingham Brunner*

*Isabella Bahner  
Jaimie Krems  
Jason Kirksey*

*Jeffrey Simpson  
Megan Macken  
Tyler Murray*

Overall participation: 64

Guest Panelists: Irissa Baxter, Dr. Jonathan Coley, Dr. Rachel Schmitz, and Dr. Kristopher Struckmeyer

### **Agenda:**

1. Announcements
2. LGBTQ+ Research and Advocacy Panel

### **Announcements**

- Student Research Awards have just been sent out.
  - We awarded around \$18,000 in total.
  - We had over 50 reviewers for over 80 submissions.
  - Thank you to all applicant reviewers and university donors who made these awards possible.
- The winner for the WFC's annual undergraduate leadership scholarship has been selected. They will be notified shortly.

### **Guest Panelists:**

- Dr. Jonathan Coley: *LGBTQ+ Inclusion in U.S. Higher Education*
  - Conducted survey of colleges/universities with LGBTQ+ student groups (62% of almost 2000 universities have groups)
  - Christian colleges/universities
    - 45% with officially recognized student groups
    - 55% with nondiscriminatory policies inclusive of sexual orientation
    - 10% with nondiscrimination policies toward gender identity
    - 31% with bans against "homosexual behavior/acts"
  - Group types
    - Direct action groups (social change)

- Educational groups (change campus climates)
  - Solidarity/affinity groups (support)
- o Impacts of student groups:
  - Direct action: Increased participation in in political/social movements
  - Educational: Pursue humanistic careers (counseling, social work, education)
  - Solidarity/affinity: Greater confidence talking about issues of identify, their journey, LGBTQ+ issues with friends, family, etc.
- Rachel Schmitz: *Expansive Perspectives of Diverse LGBTQ2S+ Communities: The Power of Pets and Strength of Spirit*
  - o Language considerations:
    - Person-first language to promote equity and humanity
    - LGBTQ2S+ = lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, Two-Spirit (native persons, anti-colonialist perspective), inclusivity
    - Pets as companion animals
  - o Elevated stressors: stigma, prejudice, discrimination, mental health challenges, victimization, conflicts
  - o Layered marginalization: LGBTQ2S+ youth overrepresented in homeless populations
  - o Social justice emphasis
  - o Research goals:
    - Resilience (identity development and pets as supports)
    - Strengths-based approaches
    - Diverse conceptions of mental health dynamics
      - Narratives focused on challenges
      - Cultural humility and listening to other perspectives/communities
      - Pets as supports
    - Qualitative explorations (elevate marginalized narratives)
  - o Findings:
    - Pets as emotional supports help develop healthy coping strategies for LGBTQ2S+ young adults experiencing homelessness
    - Understanding trauma is layered, multiplicative, and grounded in lived experience.

- Distinctive kinship bonds with animals/non-humans (non-judgmental relationships)
- o Future impacts:
  - Pet-inclusive services/policies (therapies and housing)
  - Companion animals as chosen kin (mental health)
  - Impact of rural-embeddedness (improving representation/acknowledgment of LGBTQ2S+)
- Kristopher Struckmeyer: *LGBTQ+ Older Adults: The Intersection of Sexual Identity and Rurality*
  - o 90% of U.S. is classified as rural
  - o 15% of rural population is 65+ (1 in 5 older adults in rural area)
  - o This population tend to be less educated with lower income
  - o They have more chronic/acute health problems and limited/lack of services
  - o They must be self-reliant or depend on family.
  - o LGBTQ+ Older Adults population figures
    - Estimated 3 million over the age of 50 (estimated 7 million by 2050)
    - Many live in poverty and experience violence, discrimination, and stigma throughout their lives
    - 12% same-sex couples live in rural areas
    - They face negative experiences of victimization & discrimination
    - Many report rural living as isolating
      - Few opportunities to meet other LGBTQ+ individuals
      - Hypervigilant, unfriendly communities that feel exposing if caught reaching out to or connecting with other openly-identified LGBTQ+ individuals
    - Access to health care and insurance are limited
    - Reliance on self or family of choice
  - o Geosocial Networking Apps
    - These connect individuals based on geographical proximity.
    - They are used for entertainment, socializing, and finding partners
    - Average user: white male between 25-35 years old

- Preliminary findings indicate at least some moderate age discrimination, excluding and isolating members of the older population
- Irissa Baxter: OSU's resources of LGBTQ+ support/advocacy
  - Safe Zone Trainings:
    - Foundational training for university members to support members of the community
    - Public display of placards showing completion of this training helps promote an accepting/comforting environment
  - EQuAL:
    - Helps establish connections within on-campus community
    - System of support for individuals going through adjustments of identity and are seeking community help/guidance
  - OSQA (Oklahoma State Queers and Allies):
    - Central LGBTQ+ student organization at OSU
    - A transgender support group was initiated this year
  - TransTrunk: clothing closet started for transgender population
  - OSU Pride:
    - End of March through beginning of April
    - Includes a parade, Dragonfly drag show, and Drag Queen Story Hour
    - Mayoral Proclamation for Stillwater was issued to support Pride Week. This visibility and open acknowledgment of the LGBTQ+ community promotes acceptance, recognition, and support.
  - Sexual Assault Victim Advocacy:
    - Support students through the process of reporting/recovering from sexual assault
    - Improve education opportunities to help prevent sexual assault among minority populations, including LGBTQ+ populations
  - OSU overall is an environment where LGBTQ+ individuals may find and identify their chosen families.