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
Jarrod 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  Jeffrey Simpson
Jaimie Krems  Megan Macken
Jason Kirksey  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)

  - Impacts of student groups:
    - Direct action: Increased participation in political/social movements
    - Educational: Pursue humanistic careers (counseling, social work, education)
    - Solidarity/affinity: Greater confidence talking about issues of identity, their journey, LGBTQ+ issues with friends, family, etc.

- Rachel Schmitz: *Expansive Perspectives of Diverse LGBTQ2S+ Communities: The Power of Pets and Strength of Spirit*

  - 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
  
  - Elevated stressors: stigma, prejudice, discrimination, mental health challenges, victimization, conflicts

  - Layered marginalization: LGBTQ2S+ youth overrepresented in homeless populations

  - Social justice emphasis

  - 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)

  - 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)

  - 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*
  - 90% of U.S. is classified as rural
  - 15% of rural population is 65+ (1 in 5 older adults in rural area)
  - This population tend to be less educated with lower income
  - They have more chronic/acute health problems and limited/lack of services
  - They must be self-reliant or depend on family.

- 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

- 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.