



Cornell University

David J. Skorton
President

April 20, 2009

Ms. Michelle Leinfelder, President
Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
109 Day Hall
Campus

Dear Michelle:

Thank you for your email dated April 1, 2009 in which you share the recently passed R.10, Regarding Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Services and Administrative Support. I am pleased to share with you information I have learned from Kent Hubbell and Susan Murphy about LGBT Services and Administrative Support.

Dean Hubbell has convened a search committee to fill the Director of the LGBT Resource Center. This committee is made up of a representative group of faculty, staff and students (totaling 12) and is already busy at work.

The Office of the Dean of Students has committed additional staffing to support the LGBT community, including administrative support and assistance from two Assistant Deans. Additionally, the office will continue to employ two undergraduate students and one graduate student liaison at the Resource Center.

Member organizations will be free to move from the Office of Student Support to the LGBTRC and be advised/supported by the Director of the LGBTRC. As Student and Academic Services does for all of its units, assistance in fund raising (especially the annual fund) is available through their Director of External Relations.

Interim Coordinator Joey Notaro has completed the process of creating a Standing Committee for the LGBTRC and it will work very closely with the search committee.

Thank you for the thought and energy that have been expended by you and members of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly in the development of this resolution. I look forward to the hiring of a Director of the LGBT

Resource Center in the coming months.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The letters are cursive and connected.

David J. Skorton

cc: GPSA Members
Margaret J. Beach
Thomas W. Bruce
William W. Fry
Kent L. Hubbell
Susan H. Murphy
Alison G. Power

R.10 Regarding Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Services and Administrative Support

Whereas, Cornell University is a LGBT affirming and supportive campus; and

Whereas, the Office of the Dean of Students affirms and supports the variety of identities and interests that Cornell students present by sponsoring clubs, events, peer-to-peer interactions, and other activities that enhance students' well-being and celebrate their differences whether they be cultural, religious, sexual preference, or gender identity; and

Whereas, the mission of the LGBT Resource Center is to coordinate the efforts of the entire Cornell University community to ensure the inclusion of all LGBT people and to eliminate heterosexism and gender identity oppression; and

Whereas, three years ago Cornell had a full-time LGBT Resource Center (LGBTRC) staff director, a LGBTRC permanent staff office manager, a full-time permanent Assistant Dean of LGBTQ(uestioning) Student Affairs, and graduate and undergraduate support staff; and

Whereas, today Cornell has one temporary interim director for the LGBTRC with a number graduate and undergraduate student support staff; and

Whereas, the position of LGBT Resource Center Director is "paused," the Office Manager position is not being advertised, and the position of Asst. Dean for LGBTQ Student Affairs has not been filled in over 1.5 years; and

Whereas, graduate and undergraduate students, staff, faculty, and Ithaca community members have met at least three times with senior administrators to discuss the lack of resources at Cornell, and students are actively advocating for basic support and the filling of at least two of the positions described herein; and

Whereas, graduate and undergraduate students urge a consolidation of these positions under the LGBTRC by moving the LGBT Assistant Dean position to be under the direction of the LGBTRC Director, instead of being under the Office of Student Support administration as it is now;

Be it therefore resolved that the GPSA strongly urges the President and Dean of Students to consider the requests of the graduate and professional LGBT students outlined in this resolution; and

Be it further resolved that the University should consider giving the LGBT administrative staff access to Cornell LGBT Alumni information and/or that the Cornell development staff consider working with the LGBT administrative staff in seeking funds for LGBT resources and personnel; and

Be it finally resolved that this resolution be circulated to David J. Skorton, President; Sunny Power, Dean of the Graduate School; Susan Murphy, Vice President for Student and Academic Services; and Kent Hubbell, Dean of Students.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mario Guerrero
Executive Vice President