

28 April 2023 General Meeting

LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Caucus

Meeting Called to order 12:04 pm

Executive Committee Reports

Setting: Violent anti-LGBTQ & anti-trans bills passing through legislation right now.

President's Report

- New Officers:
 - VP: Andy Trevathan
 - Treasurer: Ashton Maisel
 - Secretary: Lauren Lay
 - Graduate Representative: Georgina Marielle Ramos Avalos
- Caucus Perspectives on Strategic Plan
 - Solicited feedback from caucus; still opportunity to provide feedback via this survey: https://lsu.formstack.com/forms/caucus_strategy

Treasurer Report

- \$2865 in account
 - Department expense reports makes it difficult to access our funds
- Alternative options for a caucus bank account
 - Foundation account is easier to get money out of but minimum balance of \$5000
 - LaCarte card might make things a little easier
 - Looking into solutions for more immediate reimbursements
 - Recommendation for fundraiser: crawfish boil to raise needed balance as possibility
- Action Steps for Friends of the Library / Book Bazaar
 - Writing a letter to FOTL to start dialogue about issue to understand how and why shelving issues are made; offer solution; their response will direct what action the Caucus takes next
 - Librarian member: FOTL has had the same grouping for years, absence of young adult section
 - Caucus member: First time kids' books were found in this section; Everything LGBTQ has been in the Adult section
 - LSU Libraries Diversity Committee is waiting to hear what happens when our Caucus reaches out to FOTL; Library Diversity Committee member wants to ensure this is a priority for the library and take action in educating FOTL

Grad Rep Report

- Caucus engagement for this legislative session
 - Thank you to Sophie for helping to keep us informed
 - “Pleasure Activism” as way to help sustain us as we take on these challenges
 - General Discussion: How are you feeling? Are you feeling alone or overwhelmed in wanting to act?
 - Intimidated to show up; feel like I don’t know enough, don’t know the right people to talk to, don’t have the language, though I would feel more comfortable with joining others and appreciate
 - These people are meant to represent us, not the people in power; events for us are compelling and facilitate more change than just one person
 - Can’t face the indignity of asking politicians to recognize my humanity
 - Overwhelmed and heartbroken and angry
 - Invitation to Brunch / letter writing / artmaking
<https://cassiestephens.blogspot.com/2015/06/in-art-room-school-wide-collaborative.html>
 - The Louisiana Trans Oral History Project has been doing a joy-as-resistance project for a little while. One part of that is the Mapping Trans Joy project: <https://www.mappingtransjoy.org/>.
 - Rainbow Connection
<https://www.meetup.com/the-rainbow-connection-baton-rouge-lgbt-and-allies-meetup/events/292798180/>
 - 2023 Pride Day at the Capitol - Thursday, May 18th, from 9am-3pm (Central). Meet other Louisianans from across the state on Thursday, May 18th, 2023 from 9am-3pm for a day of education, storytelling, and community building. [Register here](#).
 - If anyone wants to follow along with ongoing documentation of the current session, I’m working on this:
<https://www.louisianatransoralhistory.org/2023-lege> , and the new project “Sophie’s Legislative Review and Authoritarian Bingo Extravaganza” is Coming soon!

Guest

Adam Singer, therapist; asinge6@lsu.edu

(225) 242-9052. Please don't hesitate to reach out if I can help!

Program: Collegiate Recovery Program

- 21.8% of LGBTQ have alcohol disorder compared to 11% of general population
- New Program; good support on campus; emulate traditional collegiate experience for students in recovery (any addictive disorder)

- Wednesdays at 7 in Coates 212 for weekly meeting, might pause during summer and restart in Fall; called “Collegiate Recovery Meeting”
 - Faculty and staff are welcome to participate
 - Any addicts welcome who are looking for support
- Stress = craving; being sober on a college campus is stressful without the additional stressors currently happening
- I can answer any questions via email or phone. I'm happy to meet with students individually to try to help them to gain some insight into the recovery process. Please don't hesitate to send folks my way if I can help!

LGBTQ Project Reports

- Lavender Graduation, May 17
 - Students must register by May 5th
 - More graduates registered than anticipated!
 - In need of more volunteers!
 - Registration, set-up, take-down, food serving main roles
- May 10th is next in-person Safe Space Training

Open Floor

- Auditions for Pride Talent Show is all day tomorrow (comedy, magic, dance, music, pretty much anything goes)
- Studio Ghibli fest 2023 is happening now!

Meeting Adjourned 12:55 pm