LGBTIQ&A Town Hall: Community Feedback

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER ~ FEBRUARY 22ND, 2016

The following is a summation of attendees’ feedback on 3 primary prompt questions. As the group comprise only a small (but mighty!) part of the LGBTIQA communities at DU*, we know not everyone will share the same opinions.

Get full details and provide your feedback at www.du.edu/pride

*The majority of attendees were graduate students from social work. There were no undergraduates, and few staff or faculty in attendance.
1. What can DU do **improve** existing LGBTIQ&A services?

- **More advertisement of existing services/resources**
  - Students do get this information during orientation, but it gets lost in the flood of information received during this time.
  - Make LGBTIQ&A resources more visible and explicit on each department/school’s website.
  - More training of staff/faculty on LGBTIQ&A issues, how to react to instances of discrimination, microaggressions, etc., and how they can connect students to campus resources.

- **Improve curricula to make them more inclusive of diverse genders & sexualities**
  - And compile more expansive LGBTIQ&A course list that includes graduate & undergraduate courses.
1. What can DU do improve existing LGBTIQ&A services?

- More all-gender restrooms and lockerrooms
- Need a Bias Incident Report System
- More cross-discipline collaboration (e.g. graduate students, undergraduates, & staff/faculty, Korbel with GSSW, etc.)
  - As it currently stands, student organization budgets are designed to be used only to benefit the specified student population - this needs to be re-evaluated to promote collaboration
  - Varying schedules also a barrier
- More social events to build community
  - Also improves student engagement
1. What can DU do **improve** existing LGBTIQ&A services?

- Improve the culture of campus to promote inclusivity
  - Inclusivity as a continual process
  - Every individual’s responsibility
  - Reduce the stigma around seeking services/support
2. What **new/different** initiatives would be desirable?

- Lavender Graduation
- Drag Ball
- Bring CME to the middle of campus
- In students’ first session of every class - professors should be required to ask & use chosen names & pronouns (alternatively: this information should be accessible via Banner, and editable by the student)
- Diversity training in new student and employee orientation
What should DU’s LGBTIQA services priorities be moving forward?

- Social events as community building
- More staff to support LGBTIQA initiatives on campus
- Curricular redevelopment
- Gender inclusive housing and other facilities
3. What are some better alternatives to the LGBTIQA acronym?

- Gender and Sexual Minorities
  - “Minority” is problematic; perhaps Marginalized instead
  - Add “r” for romantic-based identities (GSRM)
- What do we call the office?
  - Genders and Sexualities
    - How would this be interpreted by students, staff, faculty, and other offices on campus?
      - Suggests non-LGBTIQ folks don’t have gender or sexuality, or that office serves non-marginalized identities in same way (vs as allies)
  - Support for “Prism” or other symbolic label
It’s not too late to provide input!

Please invite other DUers to review full event notes and complete a brief survey via www.du.edu/pride