



**Resolution on LGBT INCLUSIVE GRADUATE SCHOOL
APPLICATIONS
(Resolution 2014-01)**

Graduate and Professional Student Council, General Assembly

Whereas the Duke University non-discrimination policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation;

Whereas Duke University's "Strategic Plan" respects the ethos that "Faculty and students benefit most by interacting creatively and productively with the widest possible range of individuals, ideas, and peoples";

Whereas Duke University's Graduate and Professional School applications currently lack LGBT inclusive text for applicants who wish to identify themselves;

Whereas LGBT inclusive text on applications is a direct means to recruit the very diversity that is acknowledged to enrich and benefit the student body population;

Whereas failure to monitor the LGBT graduate student population means that Duke University cannot determine whether institutional policies indirectly discriminate against this minority population;

Whereas current studies indicate the necessity to ensure that all LGBT graduate students feel safe and accepted on campus without fear of social, physical, or academic reprisal resultant from their sexual identity by faculty, staff, or peers;

Whereas LGBT inclusive applications will promote Duke University as a leader in integrity, cultural sensitivity, and social awareness;

Whereas identifying LGBT matriculates affords the University the means to accurately address resources to LGBT minority students;

Whereas Duke has the unique opportunity to lead the trend of LGBT identification on University applications as already adopted by: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Iowa, Elmhurst University, and the law schools at Boston University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Washington;

Whereas identifying LGBT applicants allows the University to develop a more accurate and holistic understanding of the graduate student body;

Whereas monitoring recruitment and retention of LGBT graduate students is necessary and already being done for other minority populations relating to ethnicity and gender;

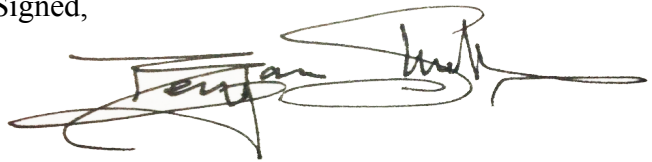
Whereas university-wide resources such as DukeOut and the Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity exist to serve LGBT graduate students; and

Whereas LGBT inclusive text on graduate applications demonstrates an unmistakable message that Duke University actively seeks to recruit and accept all applicants with regard to sexual orientation and gender identity; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Graduate and Professional Student Council:

1. Urges Duke Graduate and Professional Schools to implement an optional LGBT checkbox on all applications with identifying information that explains its use and intended purpose;
2. Urges the Duke University Office for Institutional Equity to permit and implement said changes to Graduate and Professional School applications;
3. Urges Duke Graduate and Professional Schools to utilize information gathered from LGBT inclusive applications to evaluate recruitment, enrollment, and retention of LGBT graduate students, as well as publish this information online next to other relevant minority information; and
- 4.) Urges Duke Graduate and Professional Schools to reach out to LGBT matriculating students who wish to receive more information about LGBT resources.

Signed,



Signed: Ben Shellhorn

President,

Graduate and Professional Student Council

Candidate, JD/MBA 2015

ben.shellhorn@fuqua.duke.edu

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