



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	10/8/2015
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #14  
2 Collecting LGBTQ+ Demographic Data  
3

4 *ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks to enhance the outreach of the LGBT Resource Center to improve the*  
5 *undergraduate experience for LGBTQ+ students*  
6

7 *Sponsored by: Philip Titcomb '17*  
8

9 **Whereas**, the vast majority of undergraduate students used the Common Application to apply for  
10 admission to Cornell University;  
11

12 **Whereas**, the Common Application asks applicants for demographic information, such as race,  
13 ethnicity, religion, and sex;  
14

15 **Whereas**, the Common Application does not ask applicants for information relating to sexual  
16 orientation, gender identity and/or expression;  
17

18 **Whereas**, not all applicants identify with their legal sex or their assumed or presumed sex assigned at  
19 birth, and not all applicants identify within the confines of the gender binary;  
20

21 **Whereas**, Cornell strives to be an inclusive university, regardless of gender identity and/or expression;  
22

23 **Whereas**, many other universities, including Columbia University, Dartmouth College, and the  
24 University of Pennsylvania, collect information regarding an applicant's gender identity and/or  
25 expression, preferred pronouns, and/or sexual orientation/identity;  
26

27 **Whereas**, queer-identifying students, especially trans\* students and queer students of color, and notably  
28 trans\* students of color, often face social and academic exclusion in virtually all realms of life at Cornell  
29 University, according to the 2014 Hurtado Report;  
30

31 **Whereas**, the LGBT Resource Center cannot reach out to LGBTQ+ students until after they arrive to  
32 campus and seek out the LGBT Resource Center themselves;  
33

34 **Whereas**, both Cornell University and the LGBT Resource Center are currently unable to gauge  
35 important demographic information for queer students, such as persistence and retention rates;  
36

37 **Whereas**, as highlighted in the Association of American Universities' 2015 report on Cornell University,  
38 16% of transgender, genderqueer, and gender non-conforming students had experienced nonconsensual  
39 sexual conduct, compared to 23% of women and 6% of men;  
40

41 **Whereas**, according to the AAU 2015 report, 29% of non-heterosexual females and 11% of non-  
42 heterosexual males reported experiencing non-consensual sexual conduct, compared to 22% and 5% of  
43 their heterosexual counterparts respectively;  
44

45 **Whereas**, according to the 2014 Hurtado Report, many queer students find it difficult to find queer  
46 resources on campus, including finding the LGBT Resource Center itself;

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48 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Cornell administration add an optional question on the Cornell  
49 University supplement of the Common Application that asks for the applicant’s gender identity, using  
50 either a blank, fill-in box or a drop-down with the following options:

- 51 • Agender
- 52 • Androgyne
- 53 • Demigender
- 54 • Genderqueer or gender fluid
- 55 • Man
- 56 • Questioning or unsure
- 57 • Trans man
- 58 • Trans woman
- 59 • Woman
- 60 • An identity not listed
- 61 • Prefer not to disclose

62  
63 **Be it further resolved**, that the Cornell administration add an optional question on the Cornell  
64 University supplement of the Common Application that asks for the applicant’s sexual orientation, using  
65 either a blank, fill-in box or a drop-down with the following options:

- 66 • Asexual
- 67 • Bisexual
- 68 • Gay
- 69 • Straight (Heterosexual)
- 70 • Lesbian
- 71 • Pansexual
- 72 • Queer
- 73 • Questioning or unsure
- 74 • Same-gender loving
- 75 • An identity not listed
- 76 • Prefer not to disclose

77  
78 **Be it further resolved**, that an optional question asking whether or not applicants would like to receive  
79 information by the LGBT Resource Center be added to the Cornell supplement to simultaneously allow  
80 correct self-identification and protect anonymity for queer students who are not out;

81  
82 **Be it finally resolved**, that the optional questions asking for applicants’ sexual orientation and/or  
83 gender identity on the Cornell supplement to the Common Application will also be present on all other  
84 future applications considered for admission into Cornell University from this point forward.

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86 *Respectfully Submitted,*

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88  
89 **Philip Titcomb ‘17**  
90 *LGBTQ+ Representative at-Large*

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92 *(Reviewed by: Diversity Committee, 10/4/15)*