

QUEER STUDENT UNION

at UC Davis, Fall 2011

WHAT'S QSU?

The Queer Student Union is a student organization registered with the Center for Student Involvement. QSU has been around for decades but has had a hard time maintaining interest and membership on campus due to internal conflict. Last fall, a group of students came together to try to reestablish QSU so that there could be a forum or space on campus for the various queer student communities to come together.

The working mission statement of QSU reads:

“The Queer Student Union’s goal is to contribute to the queer community at UC Davis. We aim to provide an additional resource that contributes to and brings together the already existing network of queer organizations on campus through social events, community networking opportunities, and participating in community activism. We believe that developing bonds and friendships is crucial to building community.”

WHY DO WE NEED SOMETHING LIKE THAT ON OUR CAMPUS?

QSU has been resurrected in order to address the real needs of queer students on our campus. Much of the queerphobia and racism students face on campus and in the classroom daily is not recorded, recognized, or validated by the University – as a union of queer students, we can pull our resources and become better allies to each other, as well as better communicate between queer orgs. We hope to create a safe space for queer students to connect with one another, feel welcomed, discuss their experiences, and share knowledge of resources.

WHO IS WELCOME AT QSU?

Everyone. The Queer Student Union strives to create a safe environment for all. Because we all come from very different backgrounds and have had very different life experiences, it is important to remember RESPECTION - Respect, Engage, Step UP2, Participation, Encourage, Confidentiality, Trust/Take Risks, "I" statements, One Mic, Nourish.

First and foremost, QSU strives to create a safe space for queer

students to discuss topics relevant to their lives, as well as create a space for queer students from different queer organizations on campus and queer students of all backgrounds to come together and learn from each other.

As problems arise with regard to maintaining this as a safe space for all queer students, we hope to address them and learn from them in a timely manner. We are in the process of setting up an online anonymous drop box for questions, concerns, criticisms, and comments. More information will be available on the DavisWiki page soon (http://daviswiki.org/Queer_Student_Union).

WHAT KINDS OF THINGS DOES QSU DO?

Last year, QSU worked very hard to send a delegation of 60 people to Western Regional – a large conference for LGBTQAI youth and young adults and allies. WR is a weekend-long event full of workshops, discussion, learning, panels and talks on a number of issues, and social events.

On campus and in Davis, QSU has hosted a number of social events, meetings, and discussions. We play games and get to know each other. QSU, as with any student organization, is what we make of it. We have the numbers to organize and plan large events that could be very beneficial to the campus community. The growing interest in QSU is really exciting and could mean great things for our campus.

HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS?

You can find out more about QSU by going to our DavisWiki page: http://daviswiki.org/Queer_Student_Union. Stay in the know about upcoming meetings and social events by requesting to be added to the QSU listserv. Contact CJ at cjplatenkamp@gmail.com to be added to the listserv. If you have any questions, feel free to contact one of the QSU chairs – the contact information for the QSU chairs can be found on the DavisWiki page. ☺