**Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Time:** January 16, 2024, at 2:30pm  
**Location:** HCC 310

**Attendees:**

* Ginny Morriss, Assistant Professor of Biology, Chair of Committee
* Melissa Jones, Dean of Students/Associate VP of Student Affairs (ex-officio Committee Member)
* Juliette Landphair, Vice President for Student Affairs (Not present)
* April Wynn, Associate Professor of Biology, Committee Member
* Randall Reif, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Physics, Committee Member
* Sushma Subramanian, Associate Professor of Journalism, Committee Member
* Ashe Laughlin, Assistant Professor of Studio Art, Secretary, Committee Member
* Rachael Nolan, Student Committee Member (Not Present)
* Ravi Palat, Student Committee Member

**Guests:**

* Laura Wilson, Guest Speaker, Safe Zone

**Agenda:**

**1. Introduction to Safe Zone Program**

* **Data:**
  + Laura shared statistics indicating that roughly 10% of students identified as transgender and/or non-binary, while 33% identified as sexual minority (e.g., gay, lesbian, asexual).
  + Which was a potentially larger number than expected.
* **Mission:**
  + Laura outlined the program's aim to be inclusive and supportive of LGBTQ+ students, faculty, and staff on campus, with local support from FAHA.
  + Highlighting their role as the only paid member, receiving one course release as the Director, and emphasized the program's reliance on volunteer involvement over the past decade.
* **Activities:**
  + Workshops, including Student Ally and Fac/Staff Ally workshops, with flexible options.
  + Over 350 faculty and over 500 students trained, with evaluations conducted after most workshops to gauge knowledge.
  + Various events and initiatives such as: Coming Out Day, Transgender Visibility Day, International Pronouns Day, National Get Tested Day, Book Club, and bringing in speakers.
* **Policy Advocacy:**
  + Efforts in policy changes, including the inclusion of gender expression, and advocating for gender-affirming care and gender-inclusive restroom designations.
* **Challenges:**
  + Laura discussed ongoing issues such as lack of resources, isolated incidents of discrimination/microaggressions, and shifting policies.
  + They highlighted broader challenges like family rejection, difficulty accessing gender-affirming medical care, media messaging, and the election year.
* **Future Directions:**
  + Laura mentioned changes coming for DC athletics and the program's increased social media presence.
  + Discussion on potential adoption of a Safe Zone app by police.
* **Discussion:**
  + Suggestions for individual instructors to support LGBTQ+ students, including displaying symbols of support, putting pronouns on syllabi, and establishing oneself as an ally.
  + Curiosity about potential changes affecting the LGBTQ+ Resource Center.
  + Student perspectives shared, including issues with name changing on Canvas and the importance of Safe Zone presentations during the New Student Experience.

**2. Other Committee Business**

* Next guest information regarding QEP to be obtained by Dr. Morriss.
* Consideration of other student affairs workshops helpful to faculty.

**3. Approval of January 2024 Meeting Minutes**

* Motioned by April Wynn, seconded by Randall Reif. Approved unanimously.

**4. Prospective Officers for Next Term**

* Calls for self-nomination as some members of committee terms are ending.

**5. Adjournment**

* Meeting adjourned @ 3:32pm.