

**University Faculty Senate
168th Plenary
SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry
October 25, 2014**

**Resolution Requesting All State University of New York Campuses Offering Athletics Create Programs
to Support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Athletes, Coaches, and Staff
and to Prevent Anti-LGBT Bias and Discrimination in Athletics**

Whereas, SUNY is one of the country's largest and most diverse state university systems and understands that diversity is "an integral component of academic excellence"; and

Whereas, 55 of SUNY's campuses have athletics programs which offer over 800 sports teams and participation by approximately 14,000 student athletes; and

Whereas, athletics, intramurals, and club sports play a significant role in the overall education of our students; and

Whereas, athletic programs are used to promote the SUNY system, to recruit students, to retain students, to build campus identity and school spirit, and to grow and solicit alumni and foundation donations; and

Whereas, college athletic programs have historically served as spaces for cultural, ethnic, and racial integration, helped grow more diverse campus communities, and allowed for introduction of valuable cultural competencies; and

Whereas, employers value the transferable skills—communication, leadership, time management, reflection, ability to take criticism, and how to effectively work with others toward a common goal—learned by student-athletes; and

Whereas, team membership connects student-athletes to internship and career opportunities through networks of alumni and former athletes; and

Whereas, SUNY graduates serve as teachers, coaches, and administrators in our public schools and serve as role models for the students they interact with; and

Whereas, there is a history of explicit and implicit bias and intimidation against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender athletes, coaches, and staff; and

Whereas, college athletic programs should be safe spaces for all students who wish to participate, including Out and Gender non-conforming athletes, coaches, and staff; therefore

Be it resolved that the University Faculty Senate requests that SUNY System Administration, through individual campus Presidents and their designees, work with Directors of Athletics and Student

Government organizations to develop systematic programs that support LGBT athletes, coaches and staff and prevent any anti-LGBT bias and discrimination in all sports on each of its campuses, and

Be it further resolved this program be instituted by the 2015-2016 school year.

Resources

About the LGBT Sports Coalition

The coalition is an association of organizations and individuals committed to ending anti-LGBT bias in sports by 2016. It was formalized at the LGBT Sports Summit in Portland, Ore., in June 2013. Member organizations include GLAAD, National Center for Lesbian Rights, It Gets Better, National Soccer Coaches Association of America LGBT Committee, Equality Coaching Alliance, You Can Play, GLSEN, Ben Cohen StandUp Foundation, Outsports, GO! Athletes, Women's Sports Foundation, NIRSA Leaders in Collegiate Recreation, SHAPE America, Federation of Gay Games, Campus Pride, Br{ache The Silence, NCAA Office of Inclusion and the International Gay and Lesbian Football Association.

<http://www.ncaa.org/ncaa-organizational-structure/membership-and-student-athlete-affairs/office-inclusion>

<http://www.campuspride.org/>

<http://www.standupfoundation.com/>

<http://www.outsports.com/>

<http://youcanplayproject.org/>

<http://www.athleteally.org/about/>

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Passed