Gender Equity (CGE)

Governance Committee
Chair: David Leugs

A. Major issues addressed by the committee during the 2014–15 year

B. Actions brought before Faculty Senate
None

C. Other actions, not involving Faculty Senate, that the committee initiated or implemented

1. Transgender Student Names proposal. During the 2013–2014 year, the committee authored a proposal that would allow transgender students more control of their name and how it appears on ID cards, course rosters and other lists. The committee, under the guidance of committee member Anna Ferrell, continues to shepherd this proposal through the approval process, receiving input from affected offices such as registrar, IT, etc. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by Cindy Kok from Student Life and by Provost Brandsen and has been approved by President LeRoy. We will work with Student Life to make sure that students are aware that this option is available to them by the start of 2015–16 academic year.

2. At the request of the Gender Equity Committee, in early February, the bathrooms on 3rd and 4th floor of the Hekman Library were changed to gender-inclusive. The primary impetus for the change was that female library patrons (students), represented by the student group Gender Equity Now, were requesting bathroom facilities on the 4th floor. A secondary consideration was the heightened awareness of the need by trans* persons in our community for gender-inclusive bathrooms in which they can feel safe. Following the change, the library communicated to CGE that they would like the bathrooms reverted to their previous single gender status. After much discussion, the CGE has responded that we will not oppose that change. This was a learning process for our committee and we do hope that the campus as a whole continues to explore options for gender inclusive bathrooms as a way of caring well for the minority group of transgendered students on our campus, who have shared with us the difficulty of spending time on Calvin’s campus without comfortable bathroom options.

3. “Go-To Guide for Trans Students”. The committee urged Student Life to finalize the Go-To Guide. The committee learned that the guide was approved in April 2015.

4. The committee continues to be aware of the need for gender-inclusive restrooms on campus. The need to plan for gender-inclusive restrooms was brought to the attention of the Campus Master Plan consultants.

5. There is still a desire for a gender-inclusive restroom in the Commons. Options have been explored with Physical Plant, but there is no simple solution to the problem in the Commons.

6. The chair attended a workshop, Beyond Binary, at Taylor University (Oct 2014)

7. The committee co-sponsored and co-led, with Julia Smith, a Trans 101 workshop for the Calvin community on April 16.

8. The committee met with Julia Smith, Director of the Sexuality Series, to discuss the activities of her office and how the CGE may be able to help or collaborate.

D. Issues that will continue to be before the committee next year

1. Gender identity issues on campus: Continue to work with Campus Ministries, SAGA, Student Life and possibly Human Resources to host more “Trans 101” informational events on transgender and intersex gender identifications.

2. Continue to lobby for more gender-inclusive restrooms on campus.

3. Exploration of other gender equity needs in the Calvin community.