



THE STUDENT CONGRESS
OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
74th Student Congress

STATEMENT OF POSITION
Statement of Position No. SCSP 74-01

A Statement of Position

Regarding: LGBTQ+ Justice at Providence College

Introduced By: Anthony DiSpena, **Chair of the Committee on Advocacy**

Point Person(s): Jack Sullivan, **Chair of the Committee on Legislative Affairs**

Whereas pursuant to Article Three, Section 1, Paragraph D of The Constitution of the Student Congress of Providence College: “The object of Congress shall be to promote, consistent with the Board of Trustees, the administration and the faculty, the best interests of the students of Providence College;”

Whereas pursuant to Article Three, Section 2, Paragraph B of The Constitution of the Student Congress of Providence College: “The Congress shall present all justified requests, opinions, complaints, and grievances to the appropriate official, board, or committee;”

Whereas pursuant to the Preamble of The Constitution of the Student Congress of Providence College, the body vows itself to: “Represent all students in order to serve, protect, and uphold the values and commitments to our Beloved Community;”

Whereas the 73rd Student Congress of Providence College unanimously passed SCRC 73-01, calling for the permanent position of Resource Coordinator for LGBTQ+ Inclusion;

Be it hereby known that the 74th Student Congress of Providence College recognizes the power of the Friar Family to foster a Beloved Community. The Congress commends Father Sicard’s unprecedented inclination toward diversity, equity, and inclusion at the

College including the introduction of the LGBTQ+ Resource Coordinator position in the Fall of 2020.

As the first individual to fill the role, E. Corry Kole exemplified keen attention to Providence College's hunger for a synthesis between the Dominican Tradition and the experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals. Throughout their time, E. began spreading awareness of these stories and educating the campus on effective allyship.

The 74th Student Congress commemorates E.'s leadership, bravery, and friendship and wishes to see their success in future endeavors.

Despite the gravity of E.'s impact at Providence College, the Student Congress would be amiss if it neglected legitimate barriers preventing the College from truly welcoming its LGBTQ+ Friars into the Beloved Community. From public incidents of anti-LGBTQ+ hate, discrimination, and exclusion to administrative red tape silencing student organizations, faculty, and staff from sharing lived experiences and building visible communities, Providence College maintains a campus climate permissive of concealing a significant portion of its population.

As a Catholic institution, the College has ample opportunity and the duty to respond to the needs of every individual who calls its campus home. Whether students, faculty, staff, or alumni, all Friars deserve mutual respect from the College. Therefore, all aspects of the school should be responsive and accessible to the needs of every individual and community on campus, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, veteran status, class, ability status, age, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

With this, the 74th Student Congress is proud to sign on to the March 18th, 2024, open letter identifying hypocrisy in the College's treatment toward LGBTQ+ community members and aligns with the letter's recommendations.

In addition, the 74th Student Congress of Providence College insists the College institute the following measures to improve the support, visibility, and recognition of the LGBTQ+ community on campus:

SUPPORT

1. The immediate search to fill the permanent position of LGBTQ+ Resource Coordinator with representation from student, faculty, and staff stakeholders throughout the search;
2. An "LGBTQ+ Resources" page be easily accessible via the Office of Student Affairs' website;
3. The Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, offers Safe Space Training and similar programs for student clubs and organizations, academic departments, administrative offices, and other general communities on campus if requested;

4. Additional avenues for building the LGBTQ+ community at Providence College through student, faculty, staff, and alumni networks;
5. Accessible housing and restroom accommodations for students of every sexual and gender identity, including but not limited to additional single dormitories and single-use restrooms in all buildings available to all genders.

VISIBILITY

1. Approved student organizations have the autonomy to promote an inclusive environment, specifically for LGBTQ+ communities, through their events;
2. The College permits imagery and phrases relative to the inclusivity of marginalized communities including the word “Pride” and its derivatives;
3. The College accepts students, faculty, and staff’s preferred identities, names, and pronouns. This includes allowing preferred names on diplomas and allowing College officials to display their preferred names and pronouns online and in person.

RECOGNITION

1. The College publicly acknowledges the bravery and strong will of SHEPARD and other organized bodies at Providence College;
2. The College reflects on the pain it has inflicted on LGBTQ+ individuals at Providence College and looks to a brighter future by embracing these groups into the Beloved Community through the values of love and truth encouraged by the Dominican Tradition.

Student Congress will continue its support of these missions by:

1. Participating as representatives on college advisory boards and selection committees working toward building the Beloved Community;
2. Including Safe Space and intersectional allyship training as pillars of in-house education efforts;
3. Respecting the identities of all members of the Friar Family and using its voice as an influential student organization to amplify the voices and experiences of those that have gone silent for generations.