



REPORT

From the office of the...

QSCC Coordinator

TO: Members of the Executive Board
FROM: Aly Khalifa
SUBJECT: QSCC Report 2
DATE: November 15 2016

UPDATE

Mac Pride is over and went really well. Currently focused on [trans]forming Mac and wrapping up the semester.

SERVICE USAGE

Social Media Growth

Mac Pride gave the service a massive amount of visibility, and our social media strategy this year for the campaign paid off. We used sponsored Facebook advertisements and also ran an online campaign which featured our volunteers speaking about the importance of LGBTQ Pride. We gained 156 likes on our Facebook page, with post reach peaking at about 10,000 people.

Peer Support

We've had two more people come in for peer support since my last EB report, for a total of 3 this semester. This number is still disappointingly low. I have been in contact with Sarah, the Communications Officer, to discuss making a promotional video, which PSL has had success with. Given the timeline, we've decided to postpone this project to second semester.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

You Can Play

We had our event with the Hamilton Ti-Cats the Monday after reading week. Unfortunately, no one attended the event outside of the QSCC executive and a reporter from the Sil. I suspect the attendance was low because of its timing. The event was however productive in that an article in the Sil was published highlighting LGBTQ inclusion in sport with commentary from You Can Play and the Ti-Cats. The article is available here: <https://www.thesil.ca/coming-out-swinging>

Nature Hike + Mac Talks

We held a nature hike in Cootes as a stress buster. Attendees reported enjoying it! We also held a workshop during MacTalks about the intersections of Queerness and Mental health.

Mac Pride

It was really great to see all the hard work leading up to Mac Pride come to fruition during the week! It's very hard to quantify the successes of the campaign since the goals of the campaign are qualitative in nature. The campaign is aimed at community building and making the LGBTQ community very visible, to try and contribute to an inclusive and welcoming campus culture – all of which are hard to measure.

I think having the pride flag on top of University Hall this year was a great addition to the campaign. It of course led to some controversy on the McMaster Facebook page from homophobic commenters, but that was expected so not very surprising.

We also held a Banner Painting event this year, inspired by Horizons, where people could drop in to paint a panel on the banner. While the end result was beautiful and gave us a physical emblem for MacPride to use throughout the week, the Banner was not finished during the event (which was originally 3 hours, and extended to 5), so the exec team had to finish it, which took up a lot of time.

The Rally was also a huge success. Usually the rally takes place after the march and features a speech from the Coordinator. This year we decided to have multiple speakers from different groups to come speak. This led to a series of really powerful and pertinent speeches, covering a broad range of LGBTQ issues.

Our Lets Talk Queer Workshops led to some very intelligent discussion. Unfortunately, the turnout was very low for each one compared to last year. This was intended to be a collaboration with the EngiQueers and SHEC like last year, but unfortunately this fell through this year – likely leading to the low turnout. The intimate size allowed people who did come a lot of opportunity to participate though!

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

[Trans]forming Mac

Our next campaign is [Trans]forming Mac, which is this year's name for Trans Visibility Week. This year the campaign has become much more collaborative between the QSCC and WGEN. Previously this was a WGEN campaign and the QSCC collaborated on some events, and was three days long. We partnered this year which has allowed us to share resources and expand the campaign to five days.

The QSCC is hosting a workshop on the topic of passing as cisgender, facilitated by Daniel Blum from the Trans Community Group. The week will also feature a meeting of the group. We are also hoping to restart our Trans Clothing Packages Program during the week, which we had trouble continuing with this year since the group that ran previously no longer exists and it does not fall under an executive's portfolio.

Queer Lunch and Learn

A collaboration with Mac Bread Bin, the Queer Lunch and Learn will be a discussion of food security in the queer community, taking place in Wallingford Hall.

Policy

The Sexual and Gender Diversity Policy will have been put forward to the SRA by the time of this EB meeting. Hopefully, it passed. The policy is fairly comprehensive - nearly 35 pages long – so is really exciting! This will be very useful in future advocacy efforts, especially with the PACBIC LGBTQ working group.

Wrapping up the Semester

We are currently looking into ending off the semester with volunteer appreciation. We will be releasing a poll to volunteers to let them vote on what they want to see. We are also trying to figure out the logistics of scheduling shifts for the next term. We’ve consulted WGEN and SHEC to see what they are doing.

BUDGET

No September Statement available at this time.

Mac Pride has been our biggest expense and cost a total of \$1514.16:

Mac Pride Costs	
Drag Queen Fee	\$100.00
Mac Pride Materials	\$79.84
Mac Pride Event Food	\$65.77
Snapchat filter	\$29.73
Rally - Avtek	\$98.05
Facebook ad	\$40.00
Drag show damage deposit	-\$400.00
Drag Show Venue	\$1,473.00
Rally - Mills Plaza Booking	\$28.25

VOLUNTEERS

We are currently working on volunteer appreciation. We are also trying to decide if we need more training in the second semester.

SUCSESSES

Mac Pride!