

Constitution for the Swarthmore Queer Union

(Last revised May 2012)

1. Mission Statement

The Swarthmore Queer Union (SQU) is an organization that seeks to improve the life of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans*, queer, and questioning students. SQU is dedicated to building a community for these students that is a safe, confidential space for members to explore their individual and community identities, share experiences, and reflect on community issues.

2. Description & History

SQU is a community group that is for students who self-identify as queer or questioning only. In this document, “queer” is meant to be inclusive of any labels used to identify oneself as non-heterosexual or non-cisgender, including LGBT. This community group status directs SQU to program events for members to safely share and celebrate their experiences and perspectives as queer and questioning people. All SQU events are expressly for queer and questioning people unless otherwise noted. In addition to having weekly meetings, SQU sponsors speakers, workshops, student/faculty/staff events, open meetings, awareness and outreach events, and parties throughout the year. SQU also advocates to the administration for queer and questioning issues related to student life, faculty, and curriculum.

SQU is a founding member of the Intercultural Center (IC) of Swarthmore College. SQU (then called Action Les-B-Gay), along with Enlace (then called the Hispanic Organization for Latino Awareness) and the Swarthmore Asian Organization, came together to found the IC in 1991.

3. Attendance & Confidentiality

SQU is composed of students who self-identify as queer or questioning. Questioning does not necessarily mean queer, but does signify some level of self-exploration of one’s sexuality and/or gender identity. Attendance at SQU meetings is confidential. Attendees who wish to reveal their individual involvement are free to do so, but may not divulge another student’s involvement. The organization will do its best to ensure that people have a grace period to enter and leave closed SQU events so as to maintain confidentiality. The

facilitators of weekly meetings will periodically remind the group about SQU's confidentiality policy.

4. SQU Board and Formal Leadership Positions

The SQU executive board plans weekly meetings and selects a facilitator for the meetings, as well as SQU-sponsored social events and programming. SQU Board meetings are open to any member of SQU. There is no limit to the number of SQU members who may attend a SQU Board meeting, and attending SQU Board meetings is not dependent on there being a vacant position.

SQU has the following positions: IC Intern, Treasurer, Archivist, Webmaster, and SQU Board Chair. Basic duties of these positions are outlined as follows:

4a. IC Intern

1. Maintain the SQU email list and send out weekly emails about queer meetings and events.
2. Serve as a liaison between SQU Board and the Director of the IC.
3. Enforce IC rules and regulations.
4. Serve as a liaison for the IC groups and the Intercultural Center by attending group meetings and relating information to groups regarding IC events, resources, services and programs.

4b. Treasurer

1. Be responsible for all financial matters of SQU.
2. Work closely with the Student Budget Committee and be responsible for spring budgeting and attending all mandatory student budget committee meetings.
3. Update the SQU budget regularly and report periodically to SQU Board on the state of the budget.
4. Reimburse members, when appropriate, in a timely manner.
5. Provide the archivist with records of all budgetary matters.

4c. Archivist

1. Maintain a binder containing notes from weekly SQU Board meetings, summaries and comments of the weekly SQU topic, SQU-related news articles, and all SQU flyers, budgets, funding proposals, and other related documents.
2. Create a CD each semester with digital versions of all the documents.
3. Maintain all previous archives.
4. Maintain a copy of the current and past versions of this constitution.

4d. Webmaster

1. Maintain the SQU website.
2. Update the SQU website with weekly meeting topics, events, speakers, parties, etc.
3. Maintain the SQU Gmail account, update Google Calendar with above events, and coordinate with the archivist to maintain an online version of the archives on Google Docs.

4e. SQU Board Chair

1. Facilitates SQU Board meetings.
2. Brings an agenda to SQU Board meetings.

5. Terms of Office & Elections

The term for any position is one academic year. SQU members may serve on SQU Board and on any position for multiple years. Leadership positions will be determined by the consensus of SQU Board. If the group cannot reach consensus, then SQU Board may decide on alternate procedures such as an election.