

# LGBTQ Working Groups Formed

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Three working groups established to strengthen education and awareness of LGBTQ issues on campus were formally named and charged to begin their work on Friday.

The size of the groups vary between 12 and 14 members, including two co-chairs, and are comprised of students, faculty and administrators. Two of the groups are co-led by faculty members who have been critical of the university's treatment of LGBTQ students in recent weeks — history professor Tommaso Astarita and associate English professor Ricardo Ortiz — and one is co-chaired by Bill McCoy, the director of LGBTQ resources. Each group will also be led by one of three university administrators, including Vice President for Student Affairs Todd Olson, Associate Provost Marjory Blumenthal and Director of the Center for Multicultural Equity and Access Dennis Williams.

Additionally, several members of the Out for Change campaign — which has actively petitioned for reforms this semester after two gay students were assaulted in alleged hate crimes — are represented in the groups.

University President John J. DeGioia announced the creation of the groups at an open meeting on campus on Oct. 24.

Members of Out for Change recommended students to serve on the committees, said GU Pride co-President Scott Chessare (SFS '10) last month.

University spokesperson Julie Bataille said the working groups met on Friday and will continue to meet regularly for the next four to six weeks. "I think it's likely that the working groups will all meet at least once a week, if not more," she said.

The groups aim to evaluate different aspects of LGBTQ life on campus and make recommendations to university administrators on how to better serve LGBTQ students, with one group focused on reporting of relevant safety