

Subject: [ALL_STUDENTS] QRC Update and Follow Up
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From: Miriam Feldblum
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Dear Students,

As many of you know, the Queer Resource Center (QRC) leadership is in transition. Several questions have come to our attention with regard to the leadership transition, Dr. Jonathan Higgins' engagement in social media, and the reopening of the search.

The College was aware of Dr. Higgins' tweets and social media presence prior to our offer to hire him in early June. We recognized that he brings an important voice to the support of LGBTQIA students, and especially QTPOC students, and that he approaches his work with passion and concern.

Both prior to and after his hire, Dean Jan (and later Dean Jan and I) also engaged in thoughtful discussions with Jonathan about social media and the broader responsibilities of the Director position to create an inclusive environment that honors the intersectionality and multiplicity of all student identities.

However, as the discussions progressed, it became clear that our visions to ensure the support of all LGBTQIA students at The Claremont Colleges did not match, and that we could not reconcile our paths. These decisions were made by Dean Jan and me. The QRC staff were not responsible for the decisions.

As for the next steps in launching a new search, we are consulting with the other campuses, as the QRC is a shared resource. We will be putting together a new search committee, to start meeting in early fall, and we welcome your interest.

Dean Jan and I are available, and want to hear your thoughts, questions, and concerns, including about what this means for the future of the QRC, how the decisions have impacted our communities, how it may affect the QRC's ability to provide direct support to students, expertise in workshops and trainings, and its ability to provide an inclusive and safe space for all its constituencies.

Sincerely,

Dean Feldblum

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