



Resolution Number:	W-19-01	Sponsored By:	Vice President Rachel Ibarra Senator Kelly Dowker Senator Eric-John Szczepaniak
Introduced On:	1/24/2019		
Voted On:	2/7/2019		
Result:	Passed		
Vote Count:	Unanimous, one abstention		

A RESOLUTION TO: Urge the Board of Trustees to Amend BOT 6.10 PURCHASING POLICY to Award Future Contracts Only to Companies That Demonstrate LGBTQ+ Nondiscrimination

Recognizing, BOT 1.4 COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION AND EQUITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY states that “Grand Valley State University is committed to inclusion and equity, and strives to establish a climate that welcomes and affirms the contributions of all students and employees.¹”

Whereas, allocations of the Board of Trustees, including contracts awarded, should reflect the values of the University;

Recognizing, public dollars appropriated by the Board of Trustees to private businesses, in the form of contracts, can be used by companies that continue to discriminate against LGBTQ+ individuals in employment;

Recognizing, Executive Directive 2018-7, signed by Governor Snyder on December 27th, 2018, creates nondiscrimination in State procurement, grant, and loan programs²;

Whereas, Governor Snyder writes “For Michigan to be a leader in inclusive economic development, all State of Michigan departments and agencies that perform procurement functions... must work together to ensure State government is open to everyone.”;

Recognizing, Executive Directive 2019-9, signed by Governor Whitmer on January 7th, 2019, strengthens E.D. 2018-7 and prohibits employment discrimination in the sixteen state departments regarding LGBTQ+ identities³;

Recognizing, Article VIII of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 establishes the independence of individual institutions of higher education and thus, are not bound by this Executive Directive⁴;

Recognizing, the chief civil rights act in the State of Michigan, the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, does not define LGBTQ+ membership as a protected class⁵;

¹ <https://www.gvsu.edu/policies/policy.htm?policyId=4A85B7A6-C931-1AF7-9B2F35FC5E78EE31&search=>

² https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIGOV/2018/12/28/file_attachments/1130084/ED%202018-7.pdf

³ https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIEOG/2019/01/07/file_attachments/1132869/Executive%20Directive%202019-9.pdf

⁴ <https://www.gvsu.edu/policies/policy.htm?policyId=4A005F9F-04C0-E859-20B2D04FCC8C107E&search=>

⁵ https://www.michigan.gov/documents/act_453_elliott_larsen_8772_7.pdf

Recognizing, due to the lack of adequate protections for LGBTQ+ individuals, all Michiganders face the possibility of being denied healthcare, having housing applications rejected, being fired from their jobs, etc. for their membership or perceived membership therein;

Recognizing, in the most recent Campus Climate Survey (2015), 40% of transgender or “other” gender respondents reported at least one negative or hostile incident in the past year on our campus and 26% of LGBQA students reported at least one incident⁶;

Recognizing, in this same survey, respondents who identified as transgender or “other” gender considered leaving GVSU at a rate of 25%, LGBQA students at 17%, while the general population neared 10%⁷;

Recognizing, this shift in policy would protect LGBTQ+ Michiganders and would demonstrate the University’s commitment to equality;

Let It Be Resolved, that the Grand Valley State University Student Senate supports the addition of LGBTQ+ inclusivity as a prerequisite for all future contracts awarded by the Board of Trustees.

⁶ Division of Inclusion and Equity (November 2016), myGVSU Climate Survey 2015, p. iv, found at https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/5D80BD51-996D-6AE0-B9D7668ADFEA7A31/2015_mygvsu_climate_survey_expanded_findings_report.pdf

⁷ Ibid, p. v