

**Constitution of the
Queer Community
Alliance University of
Maryland School of
Social Work**

Article I.

Name

The Queer Community Alliance (QCA) of the University of Maryland, School of Social Work.

Article II.

Mission

To create a supportive environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans & queer (LGBTQ+) students, faculty, staff, alumni and their allies. To promote visibility of the LGBTQ+ community and their intersectional identities. To educate and advocate for issues relevant and important to LGBTQ+ members of the School of Social Work, including equal access, representation and recognition. To encourage dialogue on and inclusion of LGBTQ+ issues in the curriculum. To identify and address concerns of the LGBTQ+ community in the School of Social Work as they arise within school policy, on campus and in the classroom. To collaborate and innovate within the School of Social Work, UMB and with outside organizations and individuals to promote equal rights for LGBTQ+ persons locally, nationally and around the world.

Article III.

Membership

Membership in QCA is open to all students, faculty, staff and alumni of the School of Social Work. Additionally, UMB students of other schools on campus are welcome to attend, in the absence of a dedicated LGBTQ+ group within their respective school. QCA is a personally and sexually affirming organization, opposed to all forms of discrimination.

Article IV. Officers – Duties & Responsibilities

The governing body with final decision-making authority on all actions of QCA is understood to be the general membership. Accordingly, all members are encouraged to participate in decision making and planning activities.

The general membership shall annually elect at least two officers to oversee daily operations and schedule and chair meetings. These officers shall act as equal serving Co-Chairs of the organization and shall, in addition to regular operations, be responsible for managing the finances of the organization, liaising with student government and other university leadership, coordinating group sanctioned activities and overseeing all group communications. The membership may elect any additional ad-hoc officers as it sees fit.

Each Spring the general membership shall elect a group member who is a rising advanced year student of the School of Social Work to serve as a Co-Chair. This officer will be tasked with scheduling, communicating and chairing the first meeting of QCA in the Fall. At such meeting in the Fall, the general membership shall elect a second Co-Chair who is a Foundation year student of the School of Social Work. These Co-Chairs will serve together for the remainder of the academic year.

Article V. Advisor

The QCA shall obtain a faculty member who agrees to assist QCA in the fulfillment of its mission statement within guidelines of the rules and regulations of the university.

Article VI. Disclosure

The QCA acknowledges the risks lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and allied individuals confront when making themselves visible in a homophobic, racist, and sexist society. In order that all interested persons have the opportunity to participate in the QCA, individual decisions concerning visibility and identity will be respected at all times and without exception.

**Article VII. Amendments to this
Constitution**

Any member of the QCA may propose amendments to this Constitution. Proposed amendments shall be announced in the minutes prior to discussion. Approval shall be by at least a two-thirds majority of those members present.

**Updated-Fall
2017**