

## **AS Board of Directors**

### **Proposal for Queer Specific Programming**

This year the Queer Resource Center is proposing one Queer Community targeted event, the Queer Experience. This proposal will explain the purpose and background of the Queer Experience, demonstrate how it meets the office mission statement, and why it is important that opportunity to be in the cast be for queer identified individuals only.

The Queer Experience was started by the Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator of the QRC in 2010 to give people who identify within the queer community a place to speak their truths. Over the past 4 years the production has grown from a small group of people to a cast of 13 and an audience of over 250 and is anticipated to grow each year. Until this point this event has not been queer specific, however this year we propose that it be. The queer specific portions of this event would be the casting call held on March 12<sup>th</sup>, the weekly cast meetings that are designed to help the cast develop their pieces, and the final sharing of the cast's truths at the productions on May 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. Attendance at the productions on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> is open to everyone.

The QRC believes that the cast should be queer specific because the overall goal of the program is to create space for people who have been marginalized in some way due to their queer identity. Within this process, queer identified individuals are able to explore all aspects of their identity in a queer only space that is otherwise not available on campus. It is for this reason that we believe it is valuable to offer this process specifically to queer identified students and community members.

Despite the queer specific cast, other members of the community, such as allies, are highly encouraged to participate in other ways i.e. tabling, being an usher or attending the event. We acknowledge that part of having a strong community here at Western is having a strong support system, which allies are a crucial part of.