

# Queer Space Policy

Category: Procedural

Version 1

First ratified: July 2021

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## 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The intent of this policy is to formally detail the rules governing the maintenance and management of the Otago University Students' Association (OUSA) Queer Space.
- 1.2. The Executive delegates to the Student Support Centre Manager or their delegate the ability to make any operational changes and carry out any other specific duties required by this policy.
- 1.3. The Executive as governors will support the Student Support Manager or their delegate in fulfilling their duties in respect to this policy.

## 2. Interpretation

- 2.1. In this policy, unless the context otherwise requires:
  - 2.1.1. Queer is a term used to describe the many variations of sexual attraction and sex/gender identity, including intersex, transgender, transsexual, genderqueer, asexual, fa'afafine, takatapui, lesbian, bisexual and gay. We also use this term to encompass those who are questioning their identity. Although it may not be the preferred term for everyone, it is used to challenge binary representations of sexuality, sex, and gender.
  - 2.1.2. Student means a currently enrolled University of Otago student.
  - 2.1.3. Queer Space means the space reserved for queer students on campus and maintained by OUSA in the University Union building.

## Access and Availability

- 2.2. Access to the Queer Space shall be limited to:
  - 2.2.1. All queer students; and;
- 2.3. Any other persons deemed necessary for the maintenance and upkeep of the Queer Space
- 2.4. The space shall be available whenever the University Union Building is available for normal student use.

## 3. Obligations of Queer Space users

- 3.1. The Queer Space shall not be used for any purpose other than as a safe space for queer students, except as provided for elsewhere in this policy.
  - 3.1.1. The space can be booked for queer-focused events subject to approval from the Queer Support Coordinator.
- 3.2. Users of the Queer Space shall be respectful and inclusive of all other users. Any issues relating to this should be brought to the Queer Support Coordinator or Student Support Manager.
- 3.3. All users of the Queer Space must abide by the University of Otago Health and Safety Policy, and in an emergency must follow all instructions given by University of Otago staff.
- 3.4. All users are expected to keep the Queer Space clean and tidy.

## Breaches

- 3.5. Any breach of user obligations of the Queer Space must be reported in writing to the Student Support Centre Manager or the OUSA Chief Executive Officer as soon as reasonably possible.

- 3.6. The Student Support Centre Manager or the OUSA CEO have discretion to temporarily suspend swipe card access to the Queer Space for any complained person.
- 3.7. The OUSA CEO, may recommend an action to the Executive that includes indefinite suspension of access to the Queer Space for an individual or a group.

#### **4. Obligations of OUSA**

4.1 OUSA will fulfill its obligations of good governance and ongoing maintenance of the Queer Space as outlined in this policy.

4.1. The Executive shall recognise:

- 4.1.1. That the Queer Space is a unique and important space on campus; and;
- 4.1.2. That the Queer Space should be a place where all queer students can feel safe and welcome.

4.2. The Executive shall commit to:

- 4.2.1. Promoting access to the space, to encourage utilisation of the facilities;
- 4.2.2. Improving general awareness of the facilities provided by the space; and;
- 4.2.3. Ensuring the continued existence of the space.

#### **5. Upkeep**

5.1. Daily cleaning of the space shall be the responsibility of University of Otago Property Services.

5.2. Regarding the upkeep of the Queer Space, the Executive shall be responsible for the following:

5.2.1. Ensuring the continued existence and maintenance of adequate:

- 5.2.1.1. Cleaning supplies for room users;
- 5.2.1.2. Furniture;
- 5.2.1.3. Kitchen facilities including access to hot water and a fridge;

5.3. Executive shall keep a Budget line to ensure the day-to-day upkeep of the rooms.