Center History

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has a long history of working to create an inclusive environment for all students, staff and faculty. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer-identified (LGBTQ) individuals deserve equal respect and treatment within the UNC community, and they contribute an essential element to the diversity of the campus, enriching the intellectual and social life of the entire University.

The office’s creation is a result of many years of active work on the part of students, staff, and faculty who saw the need for a more centralized and visible space to serve the needs of LGBTQ students and issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity. In the fall of 2000, Provost Shelton appointed a committee to review the UNC-Chapel Hill climate in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity. The Report identified several recommendations based on the findings, one of which was the creation of an LGBTQ Center. The UNC LGBTQ Center began in the spring of 2003 as a part of the Office of the Dean of Students called the LGBTQ Office.

In July, 2006, Provost Shelton and Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Peggy Jablonski, created two full-time positions (director and an assistant director) to lead a newly, established and administratively separate LGBTQ Center. The Center was tasked with providing programs, services, and resources to create a welcoming environment for all members of the UNC-Chapel Hill community.

In summer 2007, the LGBTQ Center was moved from Steele Building to Student Academic Services Building (SASB) South due to renovations to Steele Building.

During the Spring of 2009, a group of students and volunteers conducted a research project to create a timeline of LGBTQA advocacy and activism at UNC-Chapel Hill. The group's Power Point presentation is posted as a related link on this page.

During the 2012-2013 academic year, the LGBTQ Center had its 5 year administrative review. The report applauded the value and quality of programs and services offered by the Center. It also identified existing areas about which the review committee were concerned (e.g., reduced access to the LGBTQ Center, funding concerns, and capacity concerns). The full report is available via a link on the right hand side of this page.
Since 2005 the LGBTQ Center has provided educational programming to over 6,000 people.

Source URL: https://lgbtq.unc.edu/about-us/center-history