

From: President
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 1:33 PM
Subject: LGBTQIA+ Work Group Update



Office of the President

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students –

Please see the update report below from the co-chairs of the SPU LGBTQIA+ Work Group. I am grateful for their work.

Pete C. Menjares

Interim President

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY LGBTQIA+ Work Group

January 11, 2022

On December 22nd, President Menjares sent a message to the SPU community announcing that he and the Board of Trustees were initiating the formation of working groups to address the most significant issues facing SPU as identified in the report from Venture International LLC. One of those working groups has been tasked with helping SPU find a way forward in addressing the issues that have arisen from the intersection of our Statement on Human Sexuality, our sexual conduct policies, and our hiring policies.

This working group has been formed. The group is made up of representatives from the Board of Trustees, Senior Leadership, Faculty, and Staff and will be led by Co-Chairs Joshua Canada (Trustee) and Kevin Neuhouser (Faculty):

Joshua Canada

Cedric Davis (ex officio)

Dean Kato
Sara Koenig
Brian Lugioyo
Denise Martinez
Sandy Mayo
Pete Menjares (ex officio)
April Middeljans
Kevin Neuhouser
Melanie Plett
George Parker
Ineliz Soto-Fuller
Chuck Strawn

This group met for the first time on January 6. In this meeting, the group spent a significant amount of time sharing with each other our motivations, our hopes, and our commitment to finding a way forward together that is faithful and loving. In addition, the group began a discussion of the principles that will guide our work and we will very soon immerse ourselves in fulfilling the charge that the Board has given our work group.

The President and Board Chair have requested that the work group provide them with options by April 15. This is a very ambitious timeline given the complex nature of the issues and the multiple perspectives and constituencies that make up our community. The members of the working group have committed to proceed prayerfully and meet multiple times each month in order to discern God's leading.

We ask that the entire SPU community join us in praying that God would make clear to us the path forward.

Humbly,

Joshua Canada
SPU Trustee

Kevin Neuhouser
SPU Professor of Sociology

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