

# PRESS RELEASE

## UW Que(e)ry: Interdisciplinary Queer & Trans Research Team Preliminary Findings

*UW queer and trans community members describe classrooms as unsafe; spaces in which they hear offensive language or degrading comments being directed at others based on their actual or perceived gender identity and/or sexual orientation.*

### **Seattle, August 3, 2016:**

Of the queer, trans, and gender nonconforming (GNC) students, faculty, and staff participating in the UW Que(e)ry only, .44% report experiencing physical violence on campus.

25% of UW queer and trans/GNC students, faculty, and staff report being the targets of aggressive and threatening language, while 11% of those who experienced verbal threats reported the event to anyone.

Non-reporting was attributed across themes such as: "not thinking it was a big enough deal," "I didn't want to cause waves," and "I didn't know who to report to."

While only 7% of participants reported hearing physical threats of violence directed at someone else based on their actual or perceived gender identity and/or sexual identity, these comments were made most frequently by students (61%) and in the classroom (15%). Similarly, when asked about offensive language or degrading comments (that did not threaten physical violence) being directed at someone else based on their actual or perceived gender identity and/or sexual orientation, 52% of participants responded that they had heard such comments made most frequently by students (55%) and in classroom settings (32%).

Additionally, 66% of participants reported limiting or changing how they acted and/or looked with relation to their gender identity and/or sexual orientation some or all of the time because they worried how others would respond. Of these respondents, 67% reported feeling most uncomfortable in the classroom.

Finally, UW Que(e)ry respondents asked for more of the following as interventions on campus:

- Gender accessible restrooms
- UW policy for all faculty and staff to ask for and give their pronouns
- More and varied trainings offered for allies or those wishing to be in solidarity with queer and trans communities;
- The development of more events for Pride and more inclusive spaces.

